

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone is still coping well with Lockdown and finding plenty to keep yourselves occupied. I will be calling again tomorrow (Tuesday) to chat about how it's going, but here are some further tips and links to explore and enjoy. Please do send some photos of what your child has been achieving recently and we will be hoping to put these up on the website to share with each other – in particular the VE Day bunting and any new Science activities that you have done.

Make sure that you have had a look at the VE Day bunting project that was posted on the website last week, and get your display up in the window ready for the weekend. Check out this link: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/recipes/churchills-fruit-cake for a cake to bake and have with a cup of tea at 3pm on Friday! It is a recipe from Winston Churchill's cook, Mrs. Landemare, and was eaten by the Prime Minister during his time helping to win World War 2. There are more resources and some PowerPoints about VE Day, what it meant and how it was celebrated on Twinkl. My Gran used to say that the War didn't really end until August and 'VJ Day'. What was the old girl talking about?

I hope you have done the exercise investigation for your Science work. Another good website for this subject in general is www.explorify.wellcome.ac.uk – loads of short learning activities arranged by curriculum topic and year group. Another great Science link is www.worldchallenge.club (this will take you to another website). This has challenges every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday starting this week, with teaching videos and practical tasks to try using materials you will have around the home. I have not set us up as a team to compete with the rest of the world, but there will be fun to be had for the next 4 weeks with the activities nonetheless. This week's schedule is - Week one: "Flying Things": Wednesday 6th May 2020 - Seed Spinners; Thursday 7th May 2020 - Straw Rockets; Friday 8th May 2020 - Super Gliders. Have fun!

If you are looking for more inspiration with your Mayans project, try these fresh ideas... Make a Mayan headdress using card, material and feathers, and then you could use it to role play a ritual ceremony at a homemade 'temple'. No sacrificing of parents, please! If you were going to hold a Mayan feast, what would the menu look like? Design a 3 course menu of typical food to impress the priests and king. You could also write a narrative to tell the story of the feast – focus on 3 main characters, giving them names, jobs or positions in society and then weaving a story based on some main event that happens at the feast. Your choice!

There are more great lessons on Oak National Academy this week – this a great resource that we can all take advantage of whilst at home. For Maths this week there are lessons on time, converting between units and translation (Year 5), plus fractions, angles and shape (Year 6). There are some reading comprehensions to do, and some interesting other lessons – how rocks are formed and optical illusions (Year 5) or evolution and inheritance (Year 6). The explorify website shown above has some good resources to link with this. Keep up the spelling and times tables practice as well!

To keep active, try this link for some new ideas: www.yourschoolgames.com/coronavirus-support/school-games-active-championships/. Also have a look at www.funetics.co.uk for some athletics practice – this has short videos to help with your techniques for lots of athletics events. I think these will be useful when we are back in school, so get practicing and record your fastest/longest efforts ready to compete with your classmates!

I'm sure you all have a rainbow already up in your windows, but have a look at artist Damien Hirst's new work of a butterfly wing rainbow at <http://www.damienhirst.com/news/2020/damien-hirst-creates-rainbow-artwork-for-the-nhs>. It is free to download and print. Have a look at some of his other work while you are there!

I hope everyone is still safe, healthy and happy. Parents - I continue to really appreciate everything that you are all doing to keep your children involved with some learning and exploring of the world that is available from a Lockdown scenario. Please try not to get overwhelmed with the amount of online material available – you can't do it all, so choose what interests you and your children most and do those few things well. There is something to be learnt from every little thing that we do, and we must try and take some pleasure in those things too!

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Mr Sharp