

# HCJS

AT HOME

29 JANUARY 2021



## FROM THE HEAD

Now that we have got the second full week of our new remote learning provision underway, I hope that you and your children feel settled into the new routine. Thank you to those parents who have sent me their thoughts and feedback - it seems that the introduction of a regular schedule and increase in live lessons have been well received. Clearly, we will continue to fine tune our provision as we gain more experience.

Of course, academic lessons are only part of what a school provides for its pupils. We are all acutely aware that the children are missing each other and coming to school. I asked my own (Year 7) son this week what I could do to help him (he had missed a couple of lessons), and his response was, "I just want to go back to school".

Clearly, the emotional wellbeing of our children is of concern to us all. Whilst times are complicated and the majority of us aren't experts in mental health, parents might like to consider the following:

1. We have taken advice on how to support children through uncertain times and I have written about a number of themes that might be useful to think about at home in a blog post ([Supporting our children through uncertain times](#)). The four themes are: self-belief, building hope, being thankful and appreciating our connectedness. The article contains ideas for parents and children to pursue in each of these areas which you might find useful.

2. Monday sees the launch of this year's Children's Mental Health Week. You might want to watch Monday's assembly with your children which is on the theme of Express Yourself and contains ideas which you might find useful (provided to us by Children's Mental Health charity Place2Be).

3. As I wrote in last week's newsletter, please do make use of the flexibility which our timetable offers and feel you can step in if the day is not going well for your child.

4. Do communicate with us. Whilst we may not have a solution to hand, we will do what we can to help.

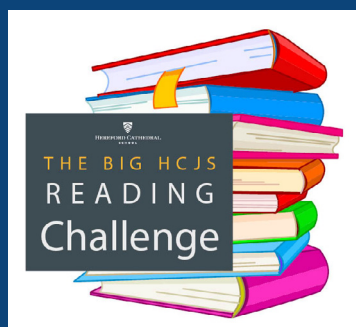
*Chris Wright*

## HCJS READING CHALLENGE

As part of our build up to World Book Day on the 4th March, we would like you to give our children the opportunity to take on a challenge. It is not a tiny challenge, oh no! It is the whopping great HCJS Reading Challenge, and it is not for the faint-hearted!

Follow the appropriate link below to read details of the KS1 and KS2 challenges and print off the competition record grids. Best of luck to all our fabulous readers who decide to have a go. Every minute helps!

You can find the KS1 information [HERE](#) and the KS2 information [HERE](#).



## STAFF NEWS

Many congratulations to Miss Mann, Nursery Leader, who gave birth to a beautiful baby boy last week - Alfie Douglas Price, weighing 6 lbs.



We say goodbye today to Mrs Deakins who leaves us to begin her maternity leave. Mrs Halford (Reception TA) also began her maternity leave recently. We wish them both the very best of luck and look forward to hearing from them soon.

## FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE

We are thrilled to let you know that the children will have the opportunity to attend a real live (virtual) festival from the 2nd-12th February (no wellies required)! The Bishop's Stortford College Festival of Literature team have recruited a number of well-known children's authors and poets who are excited about reading their stories and exploring their characters with all of us - live, in real time.

Details of when the children will join the appropriate author/poet sessions can be found in the timetable [HERE](#) (they will also appear on the daily overviews). In the meantime you can visit the website [HERE](#) for more details on the sessions and the authors that your children might meet over the next 10 days. You can click on 'Schools Programme' at the top to get some background on the authors. Have fun enjoying escaping with a good book together.

# IN OUR LESSONS THIS WEEK...

## ART AND DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Year 2: Great Fire of London prints (cross-curricular with Humanities).



Year 5: Bag design and construction.  
Year 6: Ben Nicholson style composition



## RECEPTION

RE task: 'Jesus heals a blind man'.

Music: the children have been inspired by the cardboard box song to make their own creations and they've been making their own instruments too!



## YEAR 1

RE: Making Menorah candles

Maths: Discovering properties of 3D shapes

Phonics: Writing stories using the 'ur' sound in phonics.



## YEAR 2

2D have been studying and making 3D shapes in Maths (right).



## FROM THE GAMES DEPARTMENT

### LAND'S END TO JOHN O'GROATS CHALLENGE:

With just over a week left of the challenge, the distances the children are covering remain amazing. Currently, we have covered a total of 2325 miles!

The House standings are as follows;

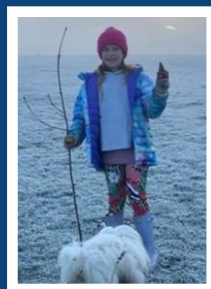
- 1st - Britten - 830 miles
- 2nd - Woodall - 630 miles
- 3rd - Oakeley - 498 miles
- 4th - Matthews - 363 miles

The class standings are:

- 1st - 4W - 480 miles
- 2nd - 6G - 335 miles
- 3rd - 5B - 282 miles
- 4th - 5L - 198 miles
- 5th - 3M - 190 miles



A big well done and good luck to Florence M who has set herself the challenge of walking 21km in 21 days to raise money for St Michael's Hospice. You can find out more on Florence's [Just Giving page](#).



Thank you to Sophie and Sam Lort-Phillips for sending in a picture of a recent walking route they did (right) - can you spot what it spells?



## CROSS CURRICULAR FOOTBALL CARD

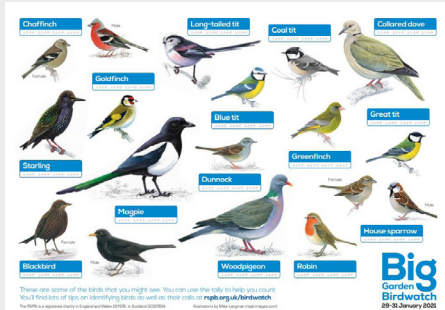
This week's card went down to the wire and was decided by the goals tie break. Going into the final game, Monty B-G had a perfect 9/9 at odds of 140/1 but he was being hounded by several people on 8. Despite getting the Bournemouth v Crawley prediction wrong and others joining him on 9, Monty was able to win this week as his goals prediction of 30 was the closest to the actual total of 37.

A massive well done to Auzzie L (26), Oliver L-P (26) who also got 9 and Harry C who got 9 but did not enter a goals total! Seb T was closest to the goals total, being one away on 38.

In the overall standings, four pupils are leading the way with 21. Well done to Jessica J, Richie W, Florence M and Oliver L-P although the chasing pack are very close!

## THE BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

This weekend is the Big Garden Birdwatch (29th - 31st Jan), co-ordinated by the RSPB. It's straightforward to take part - all you need to do is take an hour to count the birds you see in your garden and let the RSPB know what you saw! More details can be found [HERE](#).



## THE VOTES ARE IN...:

In Mr Debenham's assembly this week on 'Democracy' the pupils were asked to consider whether they agreed or disagreed with the following statement:

*Children should do 1 hour of housework at the weekend.*

The votes have been cast and the result was 52 agreeing with this statement and 18 disagreeing. So parents please put your feet up this weekend and have a rest!

Thank you to all the children that cast a vote. Mr Debenham was impressed by the thought and consideration in the responses including responses such as:

*'I think that everyone should take part in trying to help our parents to be helpful.'*

*'I agree that we have to help our mums and dads to clean up for one hour during the weekend and that means they will have more time playing with me!'*

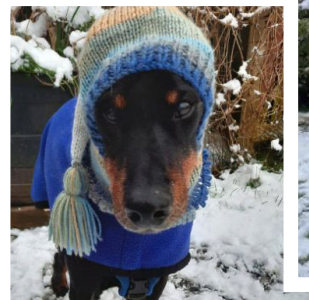
## ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

The week started with Mr Debenham's remote assembly for Reception - Year 6. You can watch the assembly [HERE](#).

## MERITS THIS WEEK

Oliver Daw, Humphrey Lively, Henry Jehan, Nina Gleadhill, Eli Allmark, Sophie Lort-Phillips, Aidan Jelf, Aidan Priday, Harry Buchanan (x2), Teddy Morgan-Jones, Beatrix Morgan-Jones, Freddie Turtle (x2), Sam Vernon, George Debenham, Monty Bayles-Gungabissoon, Florence Moseley, Henry Cobb, Tallulah Powell, Jessica Wolverson, Callum Orme, Verity Burns, Oliver Cooke, Charlie Fowler, Oscar Prosser, Solilia Peppercorn (x2), Jessica Jennings, Juliette Wood, Amelia Nicolson, Rafe Lines, Luisa Martins, Archie Turtle (x2), Ben Thompson, Aoife Donoghue, Guy Turner, Richie Wang (x2), Finlay Webb, Poppy Crawford, Gethin Jones, Oliver Lort-Phillips, Max Baillie and Freddie Inott.

## FUN IN THE SNOW!



REMEMBER! YOU CAN SEE OUR UPDATED '[LEARNING AT HOME](#)' PLANS AND PARENTS' FAQs ON FIREFLY

