



January 2021

### Welcome

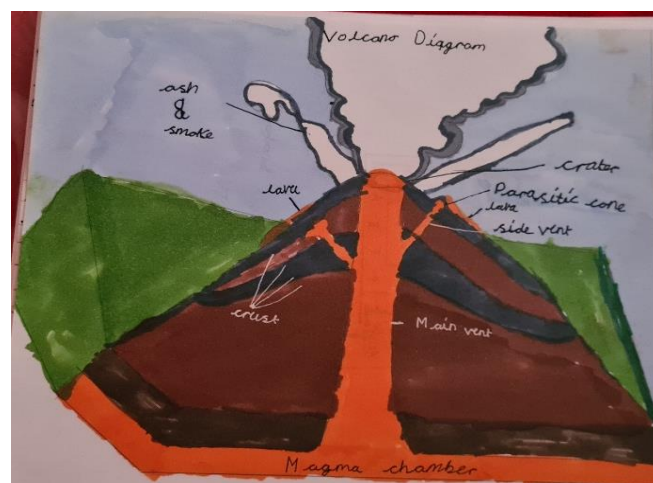
Welcome back to our pupils in school and welcome to remote learning for our pupils at home. We were very much looking forward to seeing everyone after the holidays but, due to the current lockdown, it will be a little longer before our school community is all back together. We hope that, despite the restrictions, you were all able to enjoy the Christmas holidays and are all keeping safe and well. Please continue to follow the lockdown guidelines in order to keep everyone safe and hopefully we will see some return to normal later in the spring.

### Remote learning

We have been really impressed with the children's efforts to engage with remote learning and we will be including examples of their work throughout the newsletter. Each school across the city will be managing things differently according to their staffing situation and pupil numbers. Currently we have some staff who are shielding due to health concerns, some staff who have been asked to self-isolate and others working with children in school. This may mean that your child's remote learning may be monitored and responded to by a different adult to their usual teacher.

We are aware that every household will be having a different experience during this lockdown and we are very keen not to add any additional stress to our families. If your child is accessing remote learning, please encourage them to complete the activities marked on the daily timetable as priority first. If, due to family commitments or working from home, your child is not able to complete all the work set, please be assured that this is fine. Some families may have one child and parents who have been furloughed or are not working, others may have several children with parents both trying to work from home and this can be very challenging. We understand every situation is unique and are keen to support our families in any way we can.

Encourage your child to read daily, to practise their times tables on TT rock stars and to engage with as much remote learning as they are able, but also to get some fresh air, do some exercise, play games and stay in touch with friends and family remotely.



Year 5 have been exploring volcanos as part of a geography unit on natural disasters. Lucy (5B) and Roland (5PW) created some artwork to reflect some of their learning so far. Great effort!

## INSET

Due to the current situation we will be **cancelling our planned INSET day on Friday 29th January 2021**. School will remain open on this day. We have another INSET day planned on Friday 19th March which we hope will go ahead but we will re-evaluate later and inform you if this changes.

## Relationships and Sex Education Consultation

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has announced changes to relationships and sex education following nationwide consultation. These changes came into effect from September 2020 and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements.

This means that we have been reviewing our RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) curriculum and policy so we can be sure our RSE provision is appropriate for our pupils. Part of this review includes a consultation period with parents and carers.

Information about RSE at Craneswater and the proposed changes can be found on our website at <https://www.craneswater.portsmouth.sch.uk/relationships-and-sex-education>




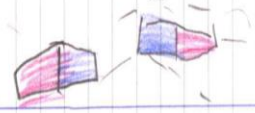

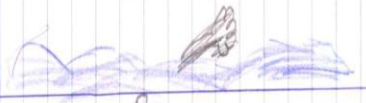

If you would like to submit any comments for consideration as part of this review, please email them to [admin@craneswater.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:admin@craneswater.portsmouth.sch.uk) for the attention of Ms C Lawrence, PSHE Coordinator, by Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

## Critical workers

Many of our families include critical workers and we have offered places in school to all who have requested one. As numbers have increased, we have opened several bubbles to keep children as separate as possible. Some of our families have two critical workers or are single parent families where keeping children at home is not an option. However if you have the capacity to keep your child at home, even if you are entitled to a place in school, we would ask that you do so. This follows updated government advice which states ***"Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can."*** This is purely to reduce the number of children in the building, thus reducing the possibility of virus transmission and we thank you for your support with this.

## Family support

During lockdown, our family support workers (Mrs Davis & Mrs Johnson) will be available to offer help to any of our families. If you feel you would like support to deal with any issues including illness, anxiety, housing or financial worries please call school reception or email the address below to arrange a time for a telephone appointment. [familysupport@craneswater.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:familysupport@craneswater.portsmouth.sch.uk)

Force	Contact (c) or non-contact (n)	Sketch
Weight	n	
Air resistance	c	
Friction	c	
Magnetic	n	
Upthrust	c	
Water resistance	c	
Thrust	c	

Freddie 3W has been exploring different types of forces in science and sorting them into contact and non-contact. Great work Freddie!

### Learning ethos

As some of our children are now learning at home, we thought it would be a perfect opportunity to revisit our learning ethos. Children in school are taught to follow Growth Mindset principles in which mistakes are positive and are part of learning.

If children are working at a level that is sufficiently challenging, for example in maths, they will make some errors and this indicates that they are working at the edge of their ability. Over time, this will lead to new learning so please encourage your child to attempt all learning, safe in the knowledge that 100% success is not always expected, but having a go is!

In the same way, when your child is writing we encourage the children to attempt all spellings, but put dots under any words they believe may be spelled incorrectly. At the end of the piece of writing, they can then check these words and correct them but this strategy prevents them losing the flow of writing. They may make basic errors when writing at speed, or engaged in creating a story so encourage your child to get their ideas down and then edit their work carefully when they have finished.

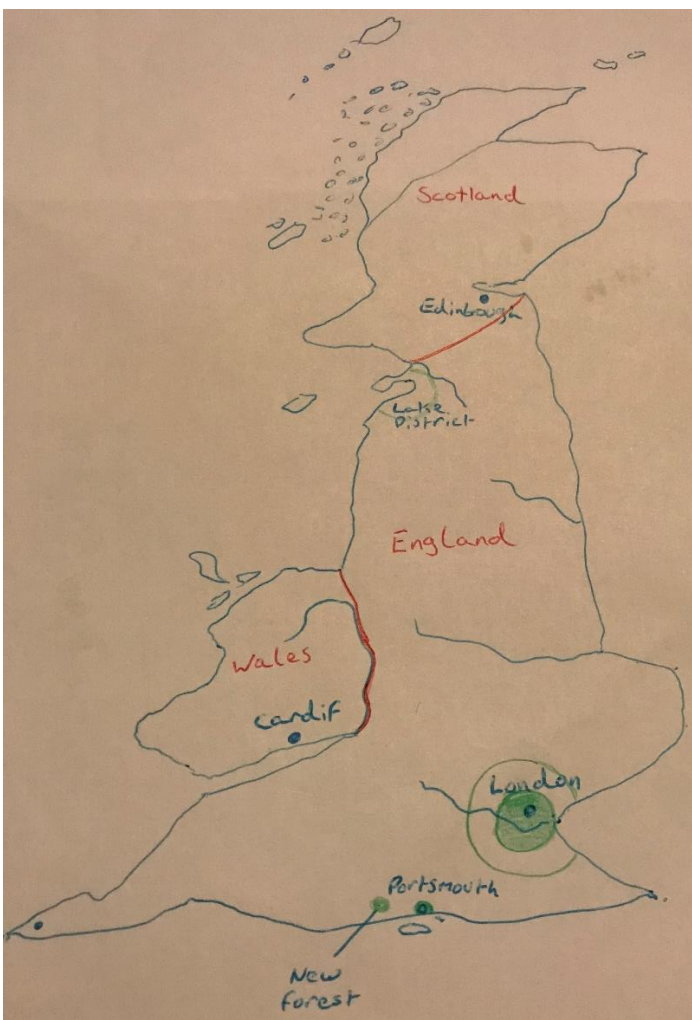
### On-line safety

Children may be spending more time on electronic devices during lockdown as a way to learn online and to contact friends. Teachers will be setting work to remind children how to stay safe online and we would urge parents and carers to ensure they understand how to check privacy settings on social media and monitor their children's online activities. For further information and resources please see our website and follow the link at the bottom of the home page to 'Childnet international'. There are parental guides for using Purple Mash, including 2do's and 2Email, on the home page of our website.

Year 4 have been exploring their knowledge of the UK in geography. They started by drawing a map from memory only and trying to locate major cities. Then they had a second go using an actual map to help. This is Andrea's (4L) UK map. Good effort Andrea!



Nancy (3W) did a great jobs of creating an Egyptian mummy as part of her creative task for remote learning. Well done Nancy!





# Coronavirus: How to keep children healthy, happy, learning and entertained at home

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Here is your free e-copy of Family First magazine, packed full of information to help keep children happy, learning & entertained at home during lockdown- We hope it helps in some way.

Please copy or click on the link below:

[https://issuu.com/sevenstarmedia/docs/ff\\_issue\\_7\\_digital211220](https://issuu.com/sevenstarmedia/docs/ff_issue_7_digital211220)



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Stay safe,  
The Family First Team

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January 2021 (issue 2)

### 1 million words challenge!

Last week our children read an amazing 920,000 words on Reading Plus; an incredible achievement. So Mr Salmond has issued a challenge to all learners to see if we can read 1 million words this week! You can all help to achieve this by logging into your Reading Plus account. All children can take part as we use Reading Plus in school and as part of our home learning. So get logged on and see if we can reach our target of 1 million words! We will update you in the next newsletter.

### Learning

As we approach the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the current lockdown, we hope things have settled for all our learners, whether in school or at home. The children currently in school have adapted well to their new groups and often different adults and have impressed us with their efforts.

When checking in with some parents at home, some have said they have found home learning with their child quite straightforward, whilst others have expressed how challenging it can be to motivate their child or keep them focussed. As ever each family circumstance is different and we are doing all we can to meet the needs of all our learners. If you are finding things challenging please let you child's teacher know and they will work with you to support in any way we can. We will be keeping in touch regularly through purple mash, email and phone calls so you can raise any concerns you may have.

Please also remember to manage expectations of everyone during this unusual time. We are all affected by the events going on around us, children, staff, parents and our wider community. If your child is not as motivated as usual or struggling to stay focussed, remember to prioritise the tasks identified on their daily overview. If, due to family commitments or working from home, your child is not able to complete all the work set, please be assured that this is fine.

Don't forget our family support workers are also available to offer help to any of our families. If you feel you would like support to deal with any issues including illness, anxiety, housing or financial worries please call school reception or email the address below to arrange a time for a telephone appointment with Mrs Davis or Mrs Johnson.

[familysupport@craneswater.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:familysupport@craneswater.portsmouth.sch.uk)



Lysander (3D) has been developing his art skills and created this landscape piece. Great work Lysander!

### Recording remote learning

If you are accessing remote learning, please remind your child that work can be recorded in whichever way is most suitable for your situation. Some children may record their work directly on the screen, others may prefer to write in a book or on paper. We understand that it can be difficult for some families to print things out, so we don't expect work to be completed on a specific format. If you need a workbook to record work, please come and collect one from the school office.

If you really need things printed and are unable to print at home, the local libraries are offering to print up to 10 black and white copies free for library card holders. We can also assist families but obviously we are keen to avoid large numbers of additional people coming on to the school site. Please let us know if you need any help providing resources for home learning.



### INSET

A reminder that due to the current situation we have **cancelled our planned INSET day on Friday 29th January 2021**. We have another INSET day planned on Friday 19th March which we hope will go ahead but we will re-evaluate later and inform you if this changes.

Year 5 explored the Tate Gallery online <https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/whos-who> as part of their creative art work. Adam (5B) created his own version of The Starry Night by Vincent Van Gogh. Beautiful work Adam!

### Critical workers

Please remember to keep us updated if your circumstances change and you are now able to keep your child at home. This follows updated government advice which states ***“Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.”*** This is purely to reduce the number of children in the building, thus reducing the possibility of virus transmission and we thank you for your support with this.



Elsie (5B) recreated another famous piece of art but this time used a different medium! Here is Elsie's imaginative take on Renoir's Peaches and Almonds. Looks delicious!

### Responding to remote learning

Please be aware that some of our teachers are teaching in school and also responding to remote learning. This may mean that if work is uploaded later in the evening, it may not be responded to until later the following day. We are aware that, for some families sharing IT equipment, it is not always possible for work to be uploaded when it is completed. All teachers are working hard to ensure children, both in school and at home, are receiving regular feedback on their learning and we appreciate your understanding with this.

### Parental comments

Our teachers and support staff have very much appreciated receiving comments from parents and families about the work they are doing.

*Thanks again for all of your input, encouragement, and providing us with a learning schedule that gives us some structure to these strange days.*

Many thanks for all your hard work and communication.

*Just wanted to say what a grand job you're doing with this home learning.*

Just to say a huge thank you to all the staff for all their hard work, we really appreciate it!

*Thank you all so much for the unimaginable amount of work you are all doing to keep our children safe and keeping their education a priority during this hugely challenging time.*



### Remote learning strategies

When accessing remote learning, please encourage your child to use the strategies employed at school to help them in selecting the correct level of challenge. For example, in maths lessons, children often select their own starting point from a list of calculations depending on how confident they feel. Therefore, if your child wants to skip calculation 1-3 and start on a more challenging question, this is fine. The purpose of this is to maximise the time children are working on the most appropriate learning for them.



Year 6 have been researching Mayan gods and were challenged to create a monument to a god using recycled materials. Josh (6B) created this amazing Mayan monument as part of his home learning. Great work Josh!



### Remote learning - voice notes

You may have noticed a feature on purple mash which allows children to leave a voice note for their teacher. If your child wishes to send their teacher some feedback about their learning, this is an easy way to communicate.

They might tell them how they found the learning, whether they found some of the vocabulary or calculations challenging, or what they enjoyed. Teachers may also respond with a voice note to give feedback for some of their learning.

Finn (4BW) came up with a very creative interpretation of Magritte's painting - Son of Man. He even managed to create the hovering apple. Great work Finn!

### French

At school we use Early Start resources to support children learning French. Whilst some children are learning from home, Early Start have made their videos and resources accessible to all or learners. You should have received instructions detailing how to log in using pupil access. Children can watch the videos, use the talking dictionary to help with pronunciation, and maybe even record a voice note of their efforts. Caitlin (5B) left Mrs Barnard a French voice note on purple mash explaining where she lives and Mrs Barnard even replied in French! Très bien!



### On-line safety

All learners, whether at home or school, will have been completing activities to remind them of how to stay safe online. If your child is spending more time on electronic devices during the lockdown, please take some time to check privacy settings on any social media they may have access to or go to our website if you need more information on any game or platform. Follow the link at the bottom of the home page to 'Childnet international' which contains a parents and carer toolkit as well as advice on key digital topics. There are also parental guides for using Purple Mash, including 2do's and 2Email, on the home page of our website.



## Literacy - Opening Paragraph

Pandas (I skipped the video for the Introduction)

### Introduction:

Pandas are fascinating creatures; they can grow up to 1.5m long! But sadly, due to human development, many forests, which is where most pandas live, have been completely destroyed! They are harmless creatures, and will only very occasionally hunt small animals such as mice and they are quite intelligent too!

### Appearance:

These rotund mammals are commonly recognised for their black and white fur, but do you know what it is used for? Pandas have a few predators, such as snowleopards, and their white fur allows them to camouflage in snow, and however, their black fur can camouflage in with shadows. These creatures have more useful characterisations. For example, in order to eat tough bamboo, the panda's distinctly large wristbones allow them to crush the bamboo, whilst its large molar teeth make it easier to chew.

Ellie (6M) has become an expert on pandas during lockdown! Year 6 have been developing their writing skills by creating non-chronological reports about animals. Have a read of some of the facts and information she found out. Great effort Ellie!

### Diet:

A panda's diet is made up almost entirely of bamboo, which scientists believe is because no other animals eat it, so therefore, this species don't have to fight for food. Since the bamboo lacks nutritional value, the pandas must eat up to 38kg of it to get enough protein and calories. Did you know, bamboo makes up 99% of this mammal's diet, but they occasionally hunt small animals, such as mice? Bamboo grows in various forests, which is why the panda's natural habitat is bamboo forests.

### Habitat:

In order to be near their food source - bamboo, this animal lives in forests that grow bamboo, which are unsurprisingly called bamboo forests. These forests are located where pandas are native to - China, and grow on high mountains. This should be a remote habitat, like it used to be, but now, more and more tourists come to see them. Unlike bears, instead of hibernating, the pandas migrate south down the mountains where it is warmer.

### Conclusion:

These incredible animals, which are considered vulnerable, are sadly under a number of human threats. Since tourism is booming in China, the panda's native country, more hotels are being built, which is destroying their habitats. As well as this, although it was banned, poaching for panda's fur still occurs. It is essential that we continue to be careful to ensure this species' safety despite damage that has already been done.



Here are a few pictures of one of year 5's creative tasks – trying to find an imaginative use for all the empty toilet rolls! Betty (50) created a flower whilst Lydia (5B) used hers to make an amazing creature with some leaves for a body. Theia (5B) decided on a pattern made with repeating shapes. Very creative!

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