

SPRING

NEWSLETTER 2021

**WORLD
BOOK DAY**

Page 3

**TIMESTABLES
ROCKSTARS**

Page 4

**FORM GROUP
UPDATES**

Page 6

**REMOTE LEARNERS
GALLERY**

Page 8



WELCOME

from the Headteacher

When I wrote the Christmas Newsletter, I never expected that we would return to school for one day in January, followed by another 6 weeks of lockdown. This has continued to be an unusual and unsettling time for us all. Having said that, we have seen the beginning and ending (for staff) of COVID testing in school and the national rollout of vaccines.

We had to switch to remote learning and offered live lessons for those at home and have been shuttling back and forth with work packs and resources for home. I am pleased to be able to say that we have learned a lot about remote learning since the first lockdown and feel that on the whole, parents have given us positive feedback to say that it went more smoothly this time. This has meant much greater continuity of teaching for the majority of our students. With the supply of more laptops from the DfE, most of our students have been able to access zoom classes and have either embraced lessons this way, engaged with PCHS TV or have worked from home with the packs of work that have been sent out. I am very pleased with the levels of engagement we have managed to achieve during this lockdown period.

Many of our students struggle with the concept of working at home because they associate work with school so I would like to thank all the parents and carers who have supported us during this time by encouraging their children and joining in with the activities. Hopefully PCHS TV has provided some entertainment too in the form of stories, music, and cooking skills to name just a few. I would also like to say a massive thank you to all the staff for their efforts in making this happen. I know lockdown has been difficult for everyone but many of our students have really developed their life skills by helping at home during this time and have shown a resilience and an ability to adapt that has made us all proud.

Nevertheless, it was with relief, joy and excitement that we welcomed everyone back to school on week beginning 8th March and everyone settled back into school very quickly. Year 11 were thrown in at the deep end with accreditation exams starting almost immediately and they have risen to this challenge, once again displaying an increasing maturity.

I really hope that after the Easter break, restrictions will lift enough for us to widen the bubbles within school so that transition activities for Years 6, 11 and 14 can begin to happen and the rest of the school can start to interact with more pupils and staff. It is our hope that we will find a way to have a prom for those leaving this year and last, but we will have to wait and see what guidance befalls us in the Summer term.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and that you all have a very Happy Easter.

Debra Grogan



WORLD
BOOK
DAY

Books provide a door into another world, whether that's one full of fiction and imagination or a factual world that teaches you incredible new things. On Thursday 4th of March we celebrated World Book Day throughout school and college.

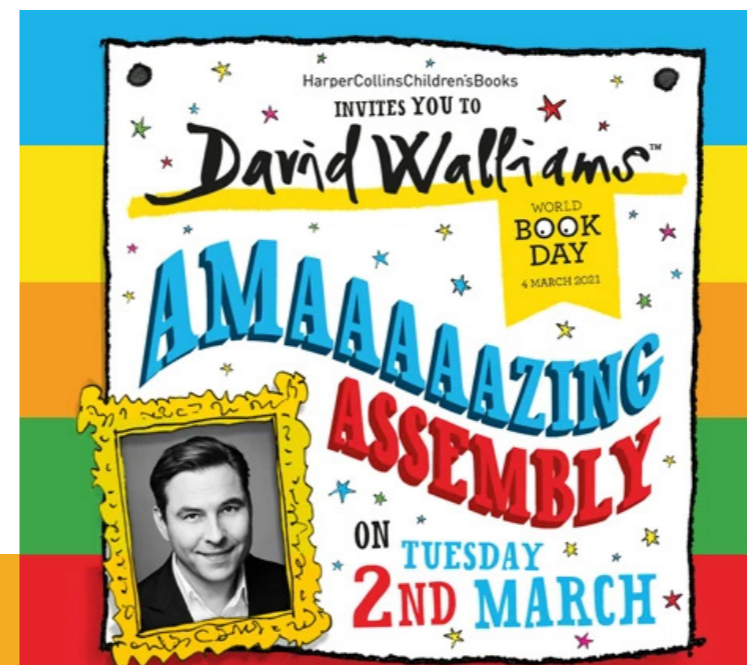
World Book Day is all about celebrating the wonderful power of books and encouraging a love of reading. This year, whether the students were physically in school/college or learning remotely from home, we were all able to celebrate World Book Day together.

We enjoyed a variety of activities throughout the day. We started by dressing up as characters from our favourite books. The students loved taking part and we had a mixture of exciting characters such as Bendi, beautiful Belle, Deadpool and Cruella DeVille.



We also enjoyed accessing a virtual World Book Day assembly held by David Walliams where he answered questions from students across the UK, discussed his love for reading and why World Book Day was so special to him.

We got creative by making book scenes in a box and there were some wonderful creations made in each class. Some of our students in school listened to stories being read by teachers; some virtually using the Oculus! We received many pictures of our remote learners reading their favourite books in their favourite spot and we finished off with a whole school assembly to show off our amazing costumes and fantastic creations. Everyone had a fantastic day!



TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

Times Tables Rock Stars is becoming increasingly popular with many of our students. It is a carefully sequenced programme providing a fun way of learning multiplication and division. It challenges each individual and allows students to have fun, competing with friends or other classes within school.

Having a better knowledge of times tables will boost confidence and application when solving maths problems. Students enjoy creating their own avatar and rock alter ego. All their efforts are recorded and they can see each week what position they are on the leaderboard. One of our students said, "I really like it. You can play against your friends and even at home."

Students have been working very hard on their times tables this term. As well as learning their times tables off by heart, students are also challenging each other to see who can earn the most coins to buy virtual red noses. The makers of TT Rockstars donate 5p for every red nose purchased.

The Challenge is open to all schools across the country and it is hoped that £5000 will be raised for Red Nose Day! Ms Blyth 'rocked out' providing some much light hearted entertainment to make it fun at the same time as learning.



Flatpack Fun

The Spring Term has been an unusual one this year, with another lockdown meaning not all of our students could be in school.

Remote learning created a challenge for D.T. to create practical activities for the learners to enjoy and build in their home. We started with the concept of designing something that could be assembled without tools, fixings, or adhesive and yet still be fun and offer a level of challenge to the students. These projects also had to fit in an a4 envelope and be flat packed so they could be posted home... it was quite the task! But, there's nothing we enjoy more than a challenge in D.T.

Our first creation was 'Bloxbes', a simple wooden robot that could be built then decorated to become whatever character the student decided. These proved very popular and students have produced everyone from Darth Vader to Belle from Beauty and the Beast.

Next we made solar systems in the form of hanging mobiles. Students were asked to research each planet then decorate them to reflect their colour and texture ready to be displayed.

Other items we have produced included a bird box, viking longboat, bird feeder and more intricate self-assembly models of insects.

All the students that have been involved in the D.T. lessons, both in school and at home, have thoroughly enjoyed having something practical to enjoy during this lockdown period. We have had great feedback and some brilliant photos of the finished items at home. Well done to everyone involved!



FORM GROUP UPDATES

HODDER

In cooking & nutrition this term, students in Hodder have been learning how to cook different healthy breakfasts as part of the topic 'Food and Farming'. They have scrambled, boiled and fried eggs and even made pancakes!

IRWELL

Pupils in Irwell learnt about the feast day of Saint David, the patron saint of Wales.

They made daffodils, the national flower of Wales and then made them into cards to give to someone special at home on Mother's Day.



WYRE

It has been another interesting term with most students working from home. We read Romeo and Juliet which was a little tricky. We are now studying the Firework Maker's Daughter which everyone seems to be enjoying. It has been lovely welcoming everyone back and we are looking forward to having a more settled summer term.

SLAIDBURN

Students joined in with the ASDA Pen Pal service, writing letters to people who have been living alone during lockdown. They have written a letter to David Walliams to let him know how much they enjoy reading and listening to his books. They also entered the Farmvention competition, writing a letter to explain how we plan to make meals for struggling families.

PENDLE

Pendle have hit the ground running after returning to school from the latest lockdown. Maths and English exams are upon us and we have been busy beavers preparing for these. It was good to see everybody back and the classroom buzzy again.

WENNING

Wenning have been exploring Spectacular Space as this half term's theme. We have enjoyed making Intergalactic Passports so that we can get into our rocket for a 'Picnic on the Moon' with real Astronaut food! It has been great to see all of Wenning back in class and settle back in with their friends and staff.



CALDER

In Calder this term we have worked really hard on developing our independence and social skills. We have been doing lots more for ourselves such as cooking our own meals and getting out our own equipment. We have learnt how to work as a team to complete tasks, sharing our equipment and taking turns.

BLACKO

The attitude and resilience the students in Blacko have shown during this latest lockdown has been admirable. With facilities being out of action and the timetable being disrupted, they have coped brilliantly. They have supported each other both socially and academically and all with a degree of humour. Well done Blacko!

MARSDEN

We are all glad to see almost everyone back in Marsden. A New Beginning is this term's theme. The students have all helped in the design of our new display which includes flower prints, making blossom & catkins for the plants and tree. We have also been working outdoors in the nicer weather and preparing for Spring time.



YARROW

What a term it has been! Many of us have been learning from home for the majority of the term, but we have all enjoyed getting to see each other on zoom every day. We have since all returned to school and are enjoying being back with our friends properly. We have all settled back into school well, it's like we've never been away!

RIBBLE

A main focus this term in Ribble has been enhancing independence, taking care of ourselves, staying healthy both mentally and physically during these challenging times. We are amazed by the skills that they have excelled in over this time across the board - especially in English, Maths, Science and Cooking.

DARWEN

Darwen students have had lots of fun this term, the highlight of which has to be World Book Day! They enjoyed dressing up and recreating a scene from their favourite books in a box. Students joined in the fun from class and over Zoom from home and everyone had a wonderful day.



LYTHAM

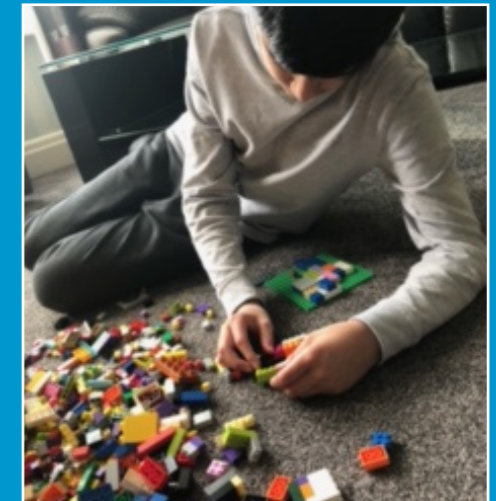
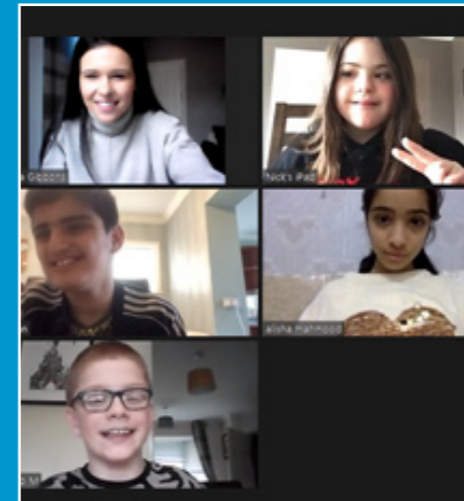
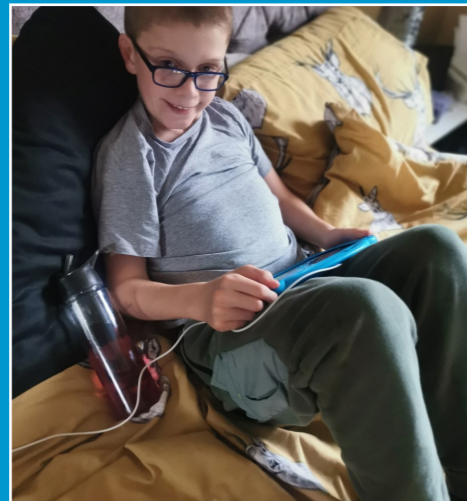
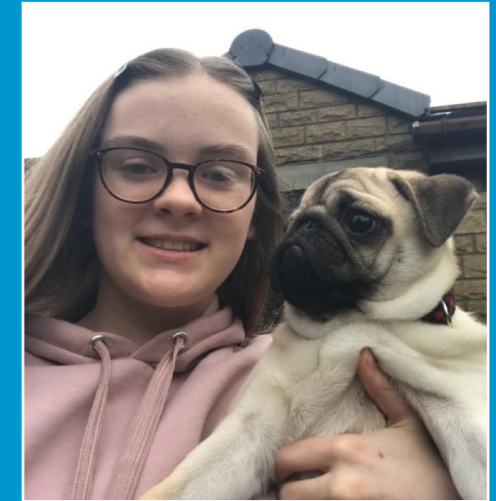
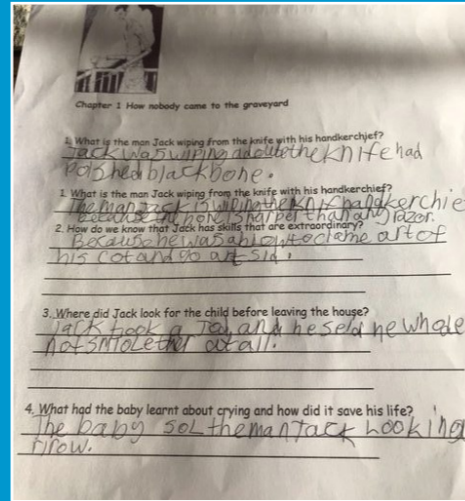
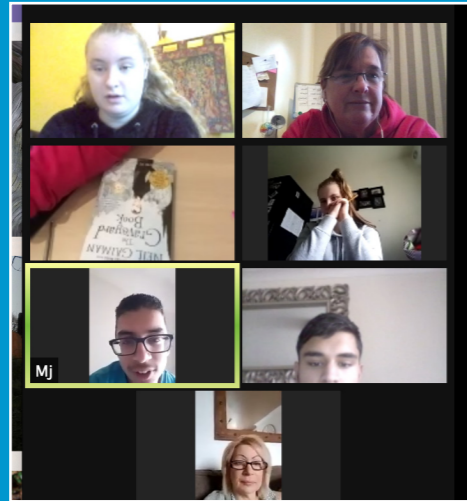
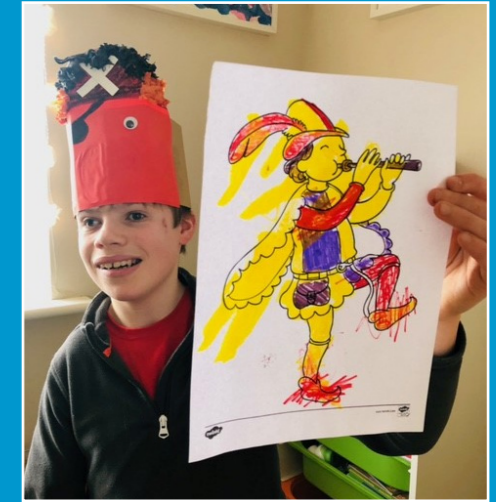
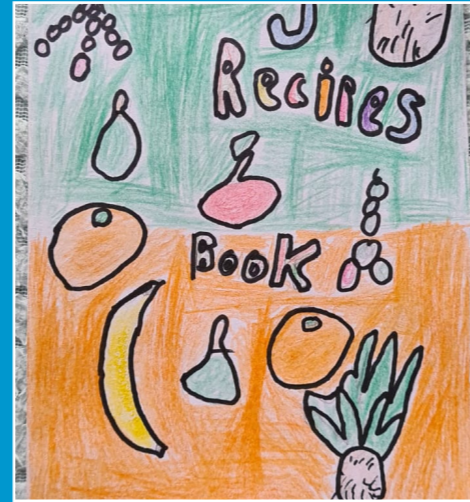
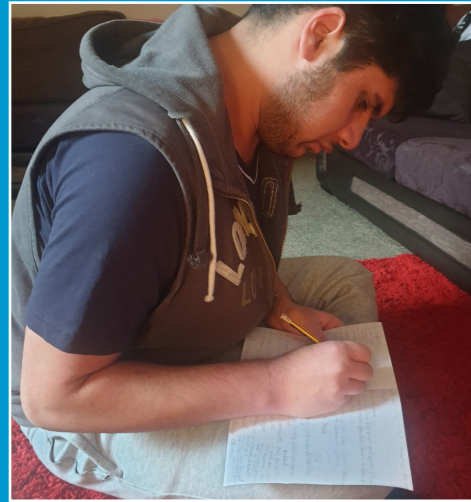
Lytham have had a busy term. We have set up Lytham's shop which we have used while learning about money in numeracy. We have had lots of fun practising household tasks including how to wash clothes and ironing and been keeping the grounds clean by litter picking and gardening in the sensory garden.

BOWLAND

A huge congratulations to students from Bowland who have worked from home during the recent lockdown closure. It was fantastic to have so many of them on zoom and be able to listen to their daily catch ups before starting work. It was also wonderful to receive their completed work via email.

REMOTE LEARNING

It was great to see so many of our students accessing learning remotely during this latest lockdown. Let's see what some of them have been getting up to.



Every Move Counts

This term we have launched our new European project called 'Every Move Counts'. We are twinned with schools from Finland, Spain, Croatia and Italy. The project aims to get more movement into our everyday lives, help us find different ways to keep our bodies and minds healthy.

Our starting challenge, because we cannot meet up in person, was to walk the distance between all of our schools – over 9,00km! We walked and recorded laps of our outdoor trail, included walks from home and added lots of movement into our school days.

We had three weeks to complete this challenge and have added over 3,000km to the joint total which is astounding. Well done to everyone who participated!



Careers Week 2021

Students in college joined in with other schools and colleges around the county in celebrating Careers Week 2021. As part of the week students tried STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) challenges building bridges using only old newspapers and tape. They also built a foil boat which had to float and competed to see which would hold the most weight.

Students were able to access a virtual tour of Asda in Warrington to look at the different jobs within the store ranging from administration roles to working in the warehouse. Students also explored a range of smelly roles from maggot farming to cleaning portaloos.

Everyone continued to build on their previous learning developing their CVs to support them in the future. Feedback from students was that they really enjoyed working together in teams and exploring a range of jobs that they may look towards gaining meaningful employment from in the future.



Stamp it out!

As part of the new Erasmus project students have been designing a logo. Our partner schools have also been creating logos and will soon have a vote to see which one wins. Over the next half term, we will be asking students to draw or take photographs to share their own ideas on what they think bullying is and how we can work together to stamp it out.



Joyful Geography

Year 7 have been on weather watch this term and have been looking for things that might be growing in the school grounds to indicate that Spring is on the way.

Years 8 and 9 have been learning about natural and man made resources. Fieldwork was conducted around the school grounds with students identifying natural resources and taking photos using their iPads. Some students even produced fantastic dioramas.

Key Stage 4 have been working towards their accreditation and studying the pros and cons of renewable energy. They have watched various videos and then held a debate in class, with some heated exchanges on why renewable energy is better for the environment.



Celebrating Christianity

Key Stage 4 have been completing work towards their accreditation on Christianity. We have looked at beliefs and rituals, where people worship and how Christians help within the community.

We followed this with The Easter story, and discussed why Jesus acted like he did towards people and his disciples. This was followed by a wonderful lesson where the students thought about who they were thankful and grateful for.

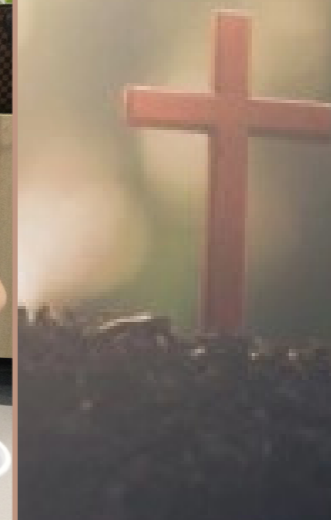
They also made pots with seeds to give to someone special, said a prayer to their friends and enjoyed juice and a croissant as we celebrated the breaking of bread.



Exploring Virtual Reality

Calder have had the most exciting time this term learning how to use the Virtual Reality headsets!

We have been diving with turtles, explored a pirate ship and even had the chance to swim with sharks!



NOTICEBOARD



School & college will close at the normal time on Friday 26th March. We will re-open on Tuesday 13th April. For those eligible for free school meals, we will be using the Edenred service over this break.

Please welcome the newly allocated Nurse for PCHSC Beverley Hodkinson. Beverley will be working alongside Nurse Deborah McKenna who is now Senior Nurse for Pendle.



This is Grace Ellison, Health Care Support Worker LSCFT. Grace works with the students on a Wednesday. Grace's role is to support the Special School Nurses for growth reviews and health promotion (improving dental hygiene, personal hygiene, understanding growing up, managing periods, healthy eating etc). Grace's noticeboard is waiting for the students work as they complete their sessions with Grace.

RED NOSE DAY

On Friday 26th March students will be raising money for Red Nose Day. For a donation of £1.00 students can come dressed in non-uniform with the theme 'the colour red'.

On the day we will be increasing student's awareness of the work done by Comic Relief with fun activities.

We look forward to an enjoyable day for all and most importantly to embracing our school's efforts in raising money for a cause that is close to hearts throughout our community.

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