

NEWS ROUND UP

NEWLETTER 1 – 18TH JANUARY 2021



KS4 Mock Exams

Students in KS4 have been working extremely hard in preparation for the upcoming mock exams in January, working through practice papers and creating revision resources, carrying out research on the Internet and using the Seneca revision platform. Due to the disruption caused by COVID-19, some students have worked remotely from home. However, all the students have put in a great effort!

JMC class have enjoyed discussing the topics on BBC Bitesize Daily as part of our daily SULP sessions.

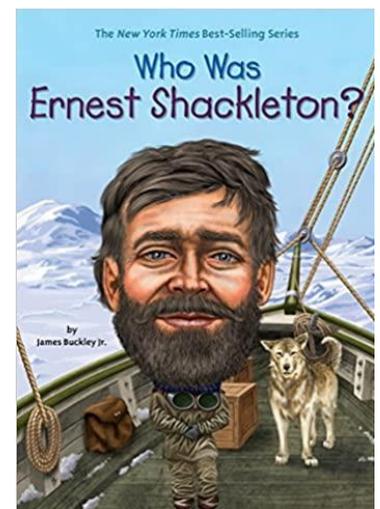


Children have continued to enjoy reading, reading books at their own level, listening to stories, and even creating their own text to read. In English, learners have been focusing on Ernest Shackleton, recounting their own journeys and personal experiences, making post cards and creating a short biography based on the life of Ernest Shackleton.

Our home learner has enjoyed looking at an Atlas and reading independently, immersing herself in a range of books.

In Maths, pupils have been learning about 2- and 3- digit place value and have learnt how to times 2-digit numbers by 2.

In Science, we have been introduced to the topic of temperature and have studied the changes of states of matter of water.



Although our offsite trips have been limited to ensure the safety of learners and staff, JMC class have enjoyed spending lots of time outside, exploring wildlife at the beach, playing PE in the park and going on woodland walks.



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Science this week

In science we have been investigating temperature and how it can be measured.

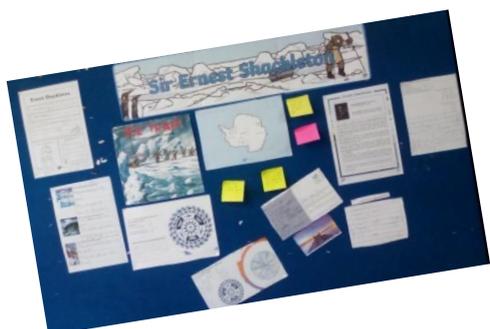
We had 3 jugs filled with water. We were able to identify that the water in each jug was a different temperature just by feeling the outside of each jug. This, however, did not tell us exactly what temperature the water was and so we used thermometers to find out.



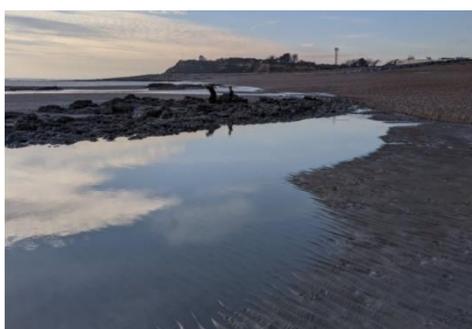
We then added an ice cube to each jug and timed how long it took to melt at the different temperatures. After that, we used the thermometers to investigate whether the ice cubes had changed the temperature of the water in each jug.

Finally, we recorded our findings and next lesson we will discuss different ways in which we can present them.

Students in MPA's class have been working remotely from home due to COVID restrictions. Students were able to complete tasks set, working on core subjects as well as other lessons through written work, interactive games and videos. All students have completed work on Perimeter and Area for Maths and are showing great progression with that. For English, several tasks have been set based around the Explorer, Ernest Shackleton. Whilst it has been a challenging time for them, they have engaged well even though it has disrupted their usual routines. Some students joined in for Zoom interactions whilst others were able to have phone discussions regarding work and how they are coping through lockdown.



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LWE Newsletter

At home

While learning from home Henry has been practising his Maths and map reading skills by playing a game called 'Race to the Treasure'. Henry had to work out where to place treasure on the map using coordinates which he was able to do independently. Well done Henry!



At School

This term pupils have been exploring the world around them with a particular focus on weather and the different weather patterns, the formation of clouds and how these change with different weather patterns. In PSHE we have been looking at 'What are we responsible for?' Here you can see a learner completing her chosen classroom responsibility. We are going to be looking at how recycling we are helping and being responsible for our environment.

Class ERA

We have been learning about the Oceans and Continents of the world using different sources including a globe, Google Earth and an atlas. We have begun making our own world collages thinking carefully about how we can represent each continent through size, colour, shape and texture. We are all fascinated with the "Incredible Journey" of Edward Shkelton and his crew and are planning short stories based on his inspiring adventures in his ship the Endeavour. In PSHE this term we are thinking about why we need money. The children took up the challenge of making a wallet and then creating as many different forms of money they could think of to go inside. From bank notes to gift cards they were surprised how many different ways there are to spend. This sparked a great discussion on when to spend, save or borrow? Useful skills both for now and the future.



5 things that have happened in P16

A varied and growing (day by day!!) offer for the young people learning online and on site at Oakfield. Highlights have been the excellent Heads-up session with Daniel Horan and the excitement around the scarecrow making competition for Land Based studies.

Students working well on Unit 49 for Independence and Work skills, which involves planning an end of year trip. In Vocational studies students have started collecting evidence for their individual PowerPoints based an area of their interest.



Cooking – students on site have continued to make and bake throughout the week, including some lovely rock and fairy cakes today. Students working on line will be involved with a ready steady cook style challenge, finding and cooking ingredients from their cupboards at home .

News from the farm!

It's been a slightly soggy few weeks on the farm but the woodchip has started arriving so I can try and cover some of the mud. The animals don't seem fussed as long as they have plenty of food.



We had a bit of drama over Christmas in the high winds. One of the chickens broke her wing and was very poorly for a few days. Emma came to the rescue and took her home. She bandaged her up, gave her lots of TLC and nursed her back to health. She's now called Wendy and is living with the bantams where she seems to be very settled. Lucky Wendy!



The Oakfield animals have been staying at Crouch over Christmas. Crouch have been very welcoming and have been under strict instructions to share their food gracefully.

Did you know?

Goats can be taught their name and to come when called

The sheep and alpacas have enjoyed munching their donated Christmas trees and have been kind enough to save me the middles for us to use at Forest School.

Bird 'flu is still around so the chickens and ducks are confined to their runs. As long as they have plenty of tasty snacks to keep them entertained they don't seem too fussed.



Oakfield students have been sending me some lovely photos of their animals at home and we're experimenting with remote learning. Not easy for landbased!



Forest School has been a bit quiet so far this term with all the other things going on but we've made a few fires and done plenty of wood chopping. It's all about keeping warm! The buzzard has been visiting a lot lately, I think he likes the (relative) peace and quiet. Photo credit goes to Aimee in the Link.



Don't forget your outdoor clothes if you're in school... if you're learning from home I hope you're managing to get some fresh air when it's safe to do so.



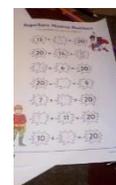
Oakfield Link

Cloud Art

Students this term have been exploring our new topic 'Blown Away' the topic focus on weather around the world, being able to identify different weathers and their effects, know how to dress appropriately for each weather. Students have been out exploring the weather we experience in the UK and creating different forms of artwork linked to their experiences.



Link students at Oakfield have been developing their independence and life skills through practical activities such as cookery and personal care.



Other students have been working hard at home with their maths work, exploring number bonds to 10 and 20, setting their own learning environment at home.

Message from Maria and Ross

The return to school after the Christmas holiday was not quite the return we were expecting. However, the Headstart team has yet again worked together and as a result we have seen a safe as possible return to pupils on site and those remote learning have been embracing their new routines. As a community, we have collectively done our best to 'keep calm and carry on'.

We have been so impressed with all the excellent work our pupils have been completing at home during this time and at school. Their commitment and hard work have been recognised by their teachers. Remote learning presents a range of challenges, but we could not be prouder of the efforts you have all made. This newsletter shows just a snippet of the many achievements.

When you have a spare few minutes, make yourself a cup of tea and listen to the following story together, *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse* of which you can listen to on the BBC <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000r630>

In a time of worry and uncertainty, the story offers a simple reset to the world around us. Some of the sentiments are simple, but they are the important things that we can all forget when the going gets tough.

I would like to offer you all Wellbeing Challenges, the first being to make a Gratitude Jar. If you would like to share your jars, we would like to see them.

Thank you to our wonderful parents and carers, you have been incredibly supportive and understanding during these difficult times. Our staff have shown flexibility, dedication, and commitment to making sure we do whatever we can to support our pupils and keep everyone safe. Our pupils have coped so well when life has been far from normal. Thank you to everyone for working together to get through a very tough start to 2021.

With very best wishes

Ross and Maria



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What's the bravest thing you've ever said?
Asked the boy. 'Help,' said the horse.