



*Inspire Excellence - Challenge Potential - Empower Learning*

## Curriculum Newsletter

### 2020 Summer Term 1

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#### HEAD'S WELCOME:

Welcome to the first curriculum newsletter!

We have decided to change the format slightly from the half term newsletter and focus solely on curriculum and class news with updates from teachers and heads of Department.

As we have moved to weekly news and school updates we will not be bombarding you with the same updates here.

This is a celebration of what is going on in school in regards to the curriculum and teaching and learning in classrooms and will be a celebration of pupil achievement.

Even though we have been working from home during lockdown, we wanted to keep up the momentum and communication so we could share with you what class teams and their pupils have been up to.

From myself and the staff team, we wish you all a restful half term; here is hoping you get to go out a little more and enjoy some sunshine.

Best wishes,

Lucia Santi

#### DEPUTY HEAD

Dear families, I sincerely hope that you are all managing to do some fun things together and keep safe. We have all been terribly busy working on The Groves Curriculum and Reading is an essential component of our curriculum. All our pupils were issued with login details for our online library Bug Club. Each pupil has a unique homepage and can log into it by following these steps:

1. Go to [www.activelearnprimary.co.uk](http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk) Click here for [Bug Club](#).
2. Our school code is xwk9
3. Enter the child's login details
4. Your child's homepage will appear

We allocate books to your child according to their reading level and their interest. These books will appear on their personal homepage. Throughout the books there are quiz questions for your child to complete. To answer a question, just click on the bug icon. Your child does not need to finish all the quiz questions in one sitting and can come back to a book later.



Please continue to do some reading every day. There are hundreds of eBooks available on Bug Club and your child's teacher will continue to allocate a variety of books for your child to read.

Helen Georgiades, Deputy Headteacher

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **25-29th May:** Half Term
- **1st June:** School open as it was last week of Summer Term 1
- **8th June:** Start to increase pupil numbers.

→ **12th June:** Review Progress, and plan for future weeks.



## Primary News

### HEAD OF PRIMARY: MR MILLS

This has been one of the strangest starts to a term in my entire teaching career... Only a handful of pupils, very few members of staff, only go into school once a week if we are lucky and normal life outside of school is very, very different!

Because of this we have had to adapt and change how we work and teach pupils which has been tough when we can't see anyone. Luckily for me the Primary department staff have been amazing.

We have all spent a lot of time on our computers having Zoom meetings, taking part in online training, completing paperwork and emailing parents and pupils with work and learning activities. Staff have tried to think of a range of activities that not only engages and stimulates pupils but is also accessible and suits pupils learning needs. Some pupils have responded really well to using online resources such as Education City, whilst others have found it easier to access physical work such as worksheets that encourage writing, cutting and sticking.

I have compiled a short list of some of the resources and activities that have been made or suggested by the Primary staff:

- Social Stories to help pupils understand the differences and changes going on

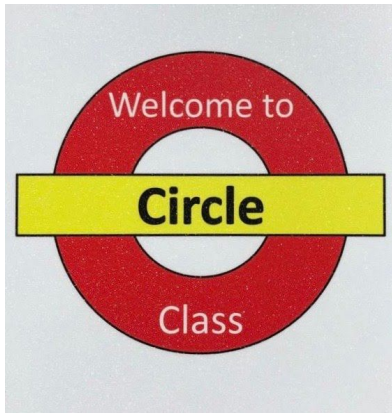
e.g. Why can't I go outside, Why I can't go to school, etc.

- Instructions on how to complete work packs which have been sent home.
- Log in details, directions and guidance on how to use online resources such as Bug Club and Education City.
- Setting appropriate books to read and work to complete on Bug Club and Education City.
- Giving ideas of what questions to ask when reading.
- Links to a range of online stories and songs.
- Writing instructions and cooking recipes using Communicate In Print so that it is visual for pupils to understand and read.
- Pictures and instructions on how to make DIY resources for Maths and English activities.
- Links to online exercise and animal yoga videos.
- Sensory ideas and instructions e.g. how to make play-dough.



All of the staff miss the pupils very much and we are all looking forward to seeing you once it is safer to do so. In the meantime here is a photo

of one of the Primary department meetings.



This half term learning has looked different for each student.

In English, some students have worked hard on their handwriting skills, focusing on pencil control and letter formations. In addition, students have also worked hard in letter recognition combined with phonics and spellings of CVC words. Students have also created lists and using colourful semantics, have been able to describe what they can see. Circle Team are happy to hear the increased reading taking place at home and that students are enjoying reading and being read to.

Most of the students have all been involved with cooking at home making different recipes and learning different life skills for example, making healthy pizzas, chocolate chip cookies and apple crumble.

In Maths we have looked at various topics. Some students have worked hard to continue making the links with quantity to numeral. In addition, students have looked at different shapes and how many sides and corners there are. Students have worked hard to embed their learning of addition and subtraction as well as learn how to make different amounts using coins. Furthermore, students have also explored and learnt about different sizes and lengths by using objects around the house and deciding whether it is long or short, big or small etc.

**Ideas for home:**

Involving pupils during cooking lessons offers lots of different scope for cross curricular learning. From making shopping lists, to identifying different ingredients, as well as chopping and mixing different food items. Furthermore, this is a fantastic opportunity to learn different life skills such as being part of the cleaning up process, to seeing how ingredients are put together to make some of their favourite meals. This can also provide them with exposure to different textures and tastes.

The Circle Team is proud of our students and how well they have coped over the past few weeks which undoubtedly has been confusing and scary.

We look forward to seeing everyone soon.

First, we would like to say a big thank you and to give an ovation to all the parents. We do not have



words to recognise your hard work and dedication during the lockdown. You have always supported us. All of you have done a great job being both amazing parents and teachers. In City class, we are sure that our pupils have not lost their achievements because they have had irreplaceable parents supporting them. Big thank you!

We have focused on supporting parents providing activities which consolidate achievements and develop children's life skills. We have met via Zoom on a weekly basis. The whole City class team has provided an unbelievable amount of support to prepare resources and update pupil's targets and behaviour strategies.





City class have been working hard during the lockdown. We have sent daily emails which include varied and balanced activities that

can be done at home. They include all subjects, ICT resources, work packs, social stories, activities with household items and yummy recipes. Some of these activities are:

1. Reading books on [www.activelearn.co.uk](http://www.activelearn.co.uk) website. We have attached reading comprehension activities such as sequencing stories, writing or commenting on pictures.
2. Typing on the computer.
3. Sensory activities such as making edible sand and counting sandcastles.
4. Fine motor skills activities such as threading a pasta necklace.
5. Exercise songs.

We are sure this lockdown has created positive links between staff and families. We are a stronger team to return to our work at the school. We have missed all the children a lot and we hope to return to normal routines as soon as possible.



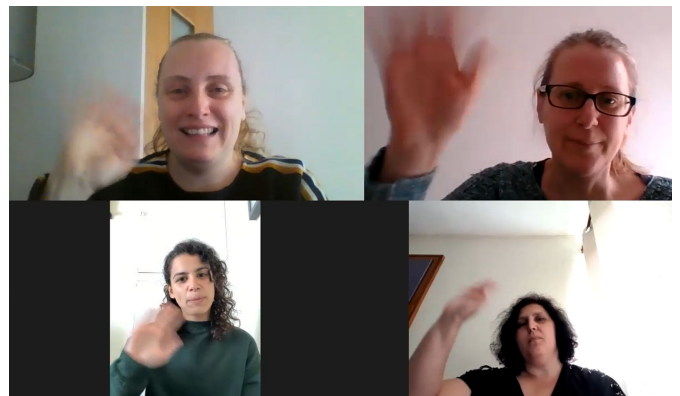
This has been a very strange half term indeed and a lot of the learning for everyone has been around settling into new routines.

The learning suggestions I have been sending home for literacy have been around tracing, writing and matching

letters, as well as sharing and listening to stories, exploring and recognising everyday sounds and phonemes in words. In maths the suggestions have been around sorting into groups, recognising and making 2D shapes, continuing to count and recognise coins and matching and recognising numbers to 20. In topic work the ideas have been around sorting and washing toys and exploring toys frozen in ice as well as continuing to recognise and label emotions.

Thank you to all of you who have been sharing what you have been doing at home. I've heard about and seen some wonderful activities such as, making 2D shapes out of magnetic sticks, waterplay in the rain, cracking and whisking eggs, 'playing instruments' using pencils and tins, matching words to pictures, colouring in animal pictures, messy play with pasta and sharing toys with siblings.

The next half term the topic will continue to be games and toys. We send you our best wishes until we're back at school.



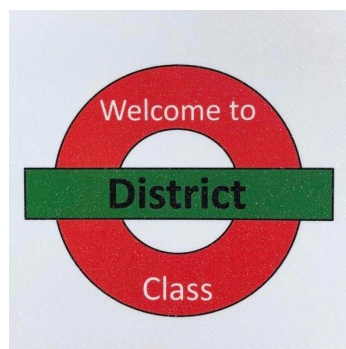
## Secondary East News

### ASSISTANT HEAD: MR WOODS

This half term Secondary East has continued to use Google Classroom for our online teaching, however we are all very much looking forward to returning to school in some capacity as online teaching is just not the same as face to face and we can't wait to welcome you back in to see your teachers and friends. It has been amazing to hear about the support and help some of you have been giving your family at home, cooking and

looking after brothers/sisters (and hopefully some cleaning too).

One positive that has come out of being in lockdown is many people have come together to help support each other when things have been difficult and we have tried to be there to support each family through this difficult time. If there is anything else the team can do to support you through the transition to the final half term and next academic year, please keep in contact and let us know. We look forward to seeing you soon!



The first half of summer term has been filled with a range of activities for District Class; from work set on Google Classroom, to cooking at home with family.

We have been catching up with parents once a week and are so pleased that you're all getting on so well in these hard circumstances.



As usual, Cat Monday is up and running every week (a class tradition which cannot be stopped! Even by Covid19!). Ms Pozniak and I hope you all have a wonderful half term, see if you can go out for a walk with your family (it's a great way to complete the last art task!), help with the laundry and help with the washing up. We also wanted to give you one last challenge! Cook something delicious, send us the recipe and a photo and we will try to cook it too, we can compare notes on how delicious it is!

See if you can spot both cats in the photos! Keep safe and well,

District Team - Miss Gold and Ms Pozniak



Hello Metropolitan Class! We hope everyone and their families are well. We are missing school and the pupils very much. We are looking forward to seeing you all when we return to school. Secondary East have been meeting on Zoom which is very fun as you can see:



## Secondary West News

### HEAD OF SECONDARY WEST: MS CALHOUN

Dear families, how are you all? I can't believe school has been closed for a term and I hope you are coping with this new reality. Whilst the building may be closed for the majority of students, it's clear that school (learning) has not stopped. I've been so impressed with all the hard work families have been doing at home; I enjoy seeing the photographs and little messages you send to the class team which show our pupils engaged with work, happy and safe. I'm very grateful to the secondary west team for continuing to keep our pupils engaged with learning through regularly emailing work to families and to the Nadine and the pastoral team for ensuring that those who need printed work receive them.

Even though we can't all be together in person, the department continues to work together to make sure we can do as much as we can to support our families. Each week, we meet together via zoom and celebrate all the good news you send to us; everyone is so keen to hear how each and every student is doing and again we thank the pastoral team for keeping us up to date on how everyone is. We also welcomed some new team members to Secondary West this term and they are very much looking forward to meeting our students as soon as it is safe too. I'm hoping that the situation improves soon and that we can welcome more pupils back to The Grove, but I'm thankful that everyone is staying safe at home. For now I'll leave you with a photograph from one of our recent zoom departmental meetings. Take care.

Metropolitan pupils have been completing work at home on Google Classroom and have adapted very well to their new learning environment, well done! Here is one pupil's awesome Art work which tells us how they are feeling during lockdown:



Some Metropolitan pupils have been making dinner for their families and gaining excellent life skills.

We hope everyone has a lovely half-term, here are some activities pupils and families can access at home:

- Superhero guided drawing on YouTube
- A workout challenge! Can you do these activities every day?: 15 sit ups, 10 push-ups and 10 leg lifts
- Help around the house: do the washing up after dinner, help with the laundry and offer to make your parent a nice cup of tea or coffee!
- Cooking skills: Look up a recipe, research how much the meal will cost to make for your household and cook a delicious dinner... remember your Food Tech skills and if you can we'd love to see the meal, send us pictures!





five items that are most important to them during this time at home. I can't wait to see some of them!

I have also really enjoyed communicating with students through email, it has been great to see students gaining independence with technology and communicating with me about what they have been doing whilst the school has been closed. Keep the emails coming Bakerloo!

Finally, I just wanted to say I hope you are all safe and well and finding some calm and enjoyment at home. It has been really great to hear that some students have been helping with cooking, cleaning and supporting younger siblings. These life skills are so important!

The Bakerloo team are all very much looking forward to getting back to school and seeing you all again.



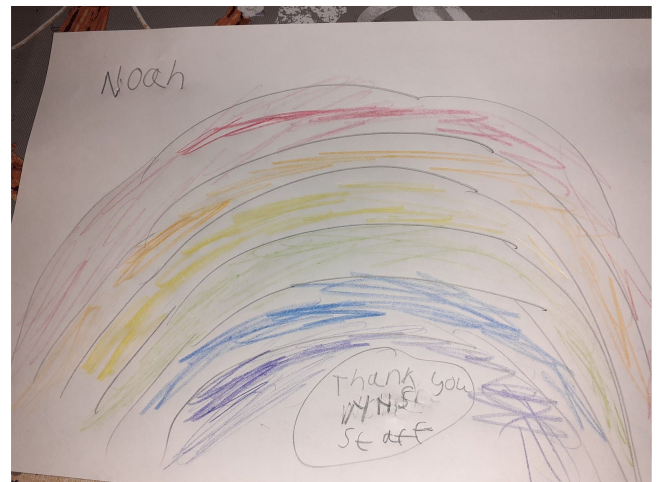
It has been a strange half term for everyone at The Grove, with students and staff staying at home and engaging in learning from

their homes. Bakerloo students have been taking part in lots of different activities at home and it has been lovely to see some of the things they have been getting up to. It has been lovely to see that some students have been getting out into their local area and taking part in nature walks. I have received some beautiful photos of different aspects of nature which was great!

Other activities that have encouraged students to get out and benefit from some fresh air have included making and posting a card and an outdoor scavenger hunt.

Pupils have also been keeping up with their English and maths learning via the online learning resources Sumdog and Bugclub. This means that they have been able to practise their reading and maths skills with their families at home.

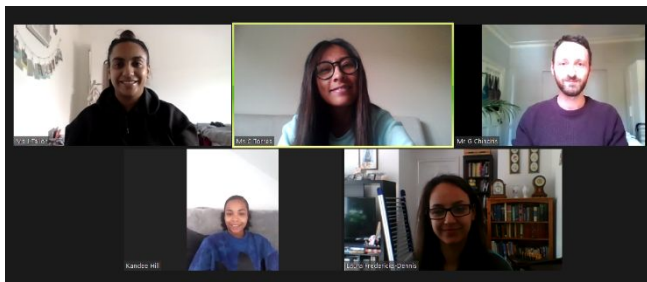
It has also been lovely to see some more creative learning going on at home as well. Students have made some brilliant posters to show support for the NHS and some have also drawn portraits of their families. This week I have set the challenge for students to send a drawing or a photo of the





During this half term, the Central class team have been really busy working from home; we have had regular meetings and

training to make sure we are going to be ready when we return to normal along with providing daily activities for the students while they are at home.



We understand that this is also a difficult time for the parents and how they deal with their day to day routine and how this affects everybody. We are incredibly proud of all the parents and how they have adapted during this time and in effect became teachers themselves (so well done to you all)!

We have outlined a few activities that all of our team have been doing to keep their minds busy and ways to stay positive in this time of change.



Miss Carolina has been painting, exercising and cycling in the forest and along the river during this last weeks.



Miss Laura has been practicing Yoga, cycling, baking, study, meditating and going for long walks.



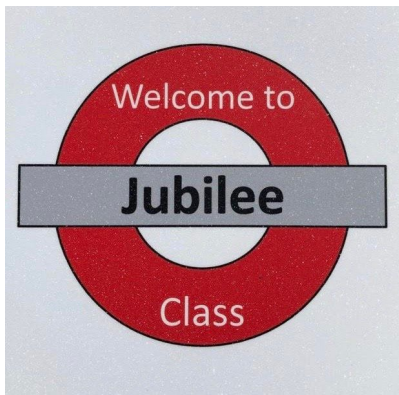
Mr Gavi has been colouring, reading, walking and enjoying cooking and eating at home.



Miss Kandee has been cleaning, cooking, walking and playing with her nephew.

The Central Class team wishes you a lovely half term, and we hope to see you soon.





Jubilee class has worked so hard this term, despite the big changes in their routines and the confusion and stress caused by the recent events. I must

congratulate parents for doing the best they can to keep them calm and happy.

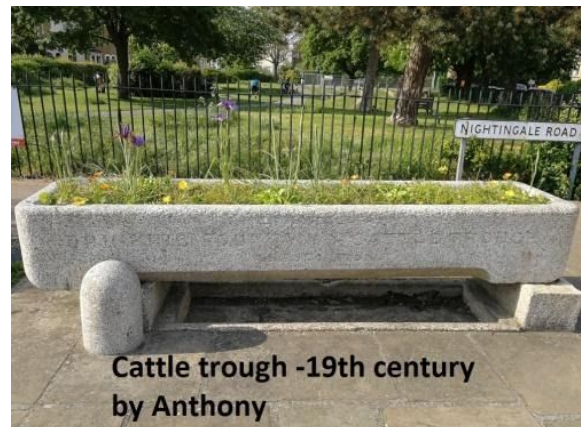
Our Topic was Dungeons and Dragons and in English we looked at some traditional fairy tales and compared them to modern versions like Roald Dahl's 'Revolting Rhymes' but also completed Reading Comprehensions tasks on Bug Club. For ICT we had to exchange emails with our teacher but we also had to complete weekly challenges such as going out and taking photos of plants, flowers, animals or old buildings in our community as part of our History lesson. We also compared old and new maps, looked at castles in London, their structure and how life was back in the Medieval Ages. For DT we looked at knights and their armour and we made our own designs of a sword and shield. In Maths we focused on multiplication, division and two-step problems but also used Sumdog and Timetables Rockstars to further develop our skills.

Moreover the boys have been very helpful at home, helping with daily chores, cooking and preparing snacks for their family. My dear super parents thank you for your hard work, you've all been AMAZING! During half term try to set some challenges to motivate and encourage them to leave home and exercise (always with safety) but also get them more involved with daily chores to help them develop their independence skills. Stay safe and hope to see everyone soon. – Miss Eleni

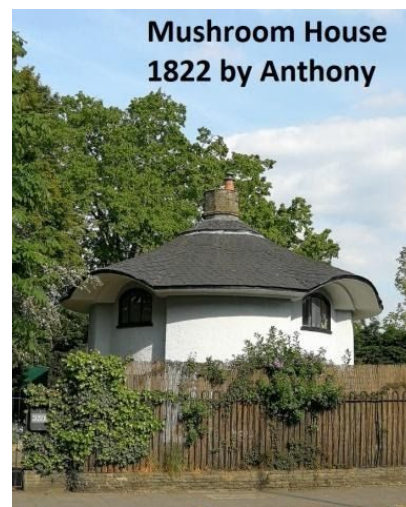
### History challenge: Find an old building in your community:



**Three Mills**  
12th or 13th century



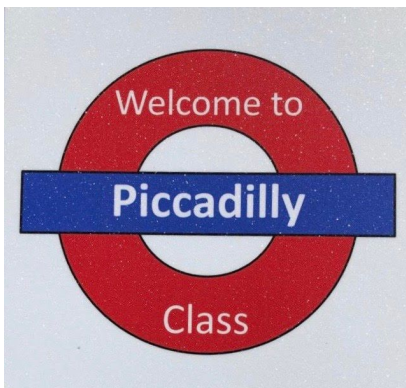
**Cattle trough -19th century**  
by Anthony



**Mushroom House**  
1822 by Anthony

### **Student Life at home:**





This term has been very different and difficult for us all at times. Piccadilly class has done well trying to adapt to the new routine of working at

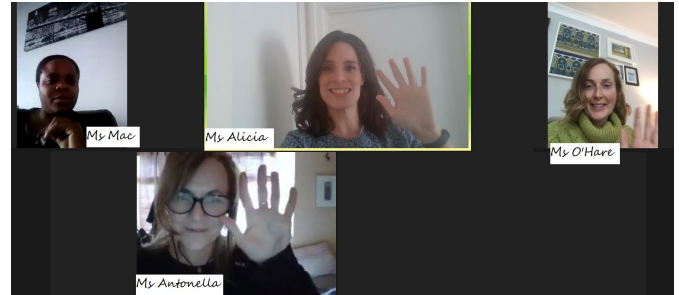
home, and you should be very proud of all the work you have put into making it work; from attempting the activities we share via email, to making sure everyone stays healthy and happy during this hard time. Well done, Piccadilly class and well-done mums, dads, sisters and family.

Remember to keep active, sometimes the best work the students can do is going out for a long walk or doing some exercise at home. That will

help you and your children stay regulated and calm.

All the staff in Piccadilly class are looking forward to seeing everyone back at school soon.

Take care and stay safe



## Post 16 News

### HEAD OF POST 16: MS ELTON

Dear all, I think the last time I wrote we had just gone into the lock down and school closure. That seems like a very long time ago now. Since then we have all adjusted to a new way of communicating and a new way of working. It has been amazing to see how well all of the Post 16 students are coping with being at home and completing all of their home learning.

I have enjoyed the various messages I have been receiving from the students - thank you and please send more! I am also enjoying my weekly conversations with parents and hearing how everyone is doing and how people are keeping safe and well.

I just want to thank all the post 16 teachers for continuing to write emails, communicating with parents and students and sending work home that all the students seem to be accessing and enjoying.

Hopefully next time I write we will be one step closer to opening in normal circumstances again.

Have a great half term.

Stay safe. Ms Elton, Head of Post 16



## Post 16

Post 16 students have embraced remote learning with great enthusiasm. They have shown resilience and great dedication to learning, by completing and submitting google classroom work.

Post 16 students have enjoyed receiving and reading daily emails and the allocated online Bug Club electronics books.

They have enjoyed working on SumDog literacy games and Interactive Maths games.

Post 16 students have been diligently completing their Home Management tasks and have continued to improve their life skills practice by completing their daily life skill challenge.

Well done Post 16. Keep up the good work and keep working hard on those independence skills.

Encourage your son or daughter to help in the home, they can practice their home management skills by helping with the cooking, washing up, laundry, cleaning, shopping. These are great skills for life as an adult.





## Ms Huseyin's News

Wow what a busy few weeks it has been!

Thank you all for your continued support and engagement throughout this time of lock down. I really enjoy receiving the updates and photos / videos of pupils, which I share with class teams.

I understand for some of you home schooling can be tricky, I reiterate what I have been saying to many of you... keeping our children happy and safe is of paramount importance during this time. "Work" does not need to be completing worksheets. Experiences such as making play dough can teach sequencing skills, pupils will learn how to weigh ingredients and then benefit from the sensory inclusive experience of making things with the dough at the end. This is just as beneficial. Cooking a meal with you will have many of the same benefits but also leads to teaching independence and life skills. Going for a daily walk can incorporate a photography session (this was how I managed to get my daughters to venture outside - this is one of their photos).



I continue to be available via email [nadine.huseyin@thegroveschool.co.uk](mailto:nadine.huseyin@thegroveschool.co.uk) or via phone 07912945107 should you wish to speak to me.

We have supported where we can with social stories, telephone calls with students, delivering the free school meal vouchers or printing work ideas off for anyone that prefers this instead of the online tools. I hope you all enjoyed the class videos that were sent via email.

Wishing you all a restful half term. I look forward to catching up with you!

Nadine Huseyin

## Finally.....

Please continue to keep up to date with the school news which is sent to you weekly - including next week. We will update you on any changes and plans for after half term as soon as we can.

In the meantime, we wish you all a very happy half term.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers for your support over the last half term. We could have never imagined that school would be like this, a virtual school!

Thank you for supporting teaching and supporting your children in what have been very unprecedented times. Let's hope there are more encouraging outcomes for the future and the coming weeks.

We hope to see more of you soon, in the meantime, stay safe, stay alert and have a good holiday.



Best wishes, The Grove staff