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Friday 8th May 2020

Dear All

Another Friday! Here we are again, again...

We haven't had any internet connection in school today, so I hope this gets to you soon!

In school this week we have been wondering what the Prime minister, Boris Johnson, may announce on Sunday. It is a bit disconcerting, not knowing if changes are on the way or not. We have adapted to social distancing and established new routines. What new and further adaptations will we need to make?

On the other hand, like many of you, we are missing all the people we normally encounter; our classes, families, volunteer helpers, governors, colleagues and visitors to the school. I know the teachers have really missed each other this week and there have been more e-mails and phone calls to each other than previously! We love getting e-mails and messages from anyone at home and we enjoy letting each other know snippets of news. Babies have been born during 'lockdown', (congratulations to Esme E, who now has a little brother), whilst George and Harry C have raised over £700 for Salisbury Hospice doing a sponsored bike ride. Keep in touch; we really do enjoy hearing what you are getting 'up to'.

Personally, I am missing telling people (and you know who you are) to tuck their shirts in and not to eat while walking up the corridor. The 'Walk Zone' has been very 'quiet' and the playgrounds and corridors are 'lacking their usual buzz'! Oh how I miss picking up a variety of misplaced sweatshirts and water bottles at the end of every lunchtime!

On the plus side, I am still enjoying my daily walks and taking advantage of the reduced levels of traffic. The flowers are beautiful and as you know, I like to identify them and learn the names of as many as I can.

Attached to this letter is an '**I Spy**' for you. For a bit of fun, I thought you might like to spot and identify some of the commonest wild flowers that I see when I'm out and about. Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School could be spotting the same wild flowers together, as it were! I took all the photos, around where I live. Can you see any of them when you walk or bike around where you live?

News (week commencing 04.05.20)

Our school...

This week, the team in school has comprised of Mrs Richards, Mrs Clee, Miss Hardiman, Miss Robinson and Miss Ellis and myself. Mrs Munt has also been in the school office for a couple of days and Mrs Davidson continues to work afternoons and evenings. **Thank you all for your continued hard work.**

In the 'Lower School' the children have drawn houses then made a collage. After that, they made 3D models of houses. As part of this work, they have been using *positional language*. This means words such as 'beside, behind, under, right, left, on top' etc.

The children working with Miss Robinson in the 'Upper School' made the most amazing marble- runs on Wednesday. Cardboard was turned into tunnels, funnels and targets. Some of them were over 1m high! The children also made colourful fish mobiles using cardboard tubes, coloured paper and string. Miss Ellis brought in lots of plants to get the garden more productive. We can look forward to strawberries, raspberries, carrots and peppers in the future.

Today everyone made flags and posters to decorate the tables used for a V.E. Day Party. The celebrations involved jelly, ice-cream and music from the 1940's.



A marble-run. The focus was on function rather than looks!

We held a 'Smiley Face Assembly' at 10:45 this morning. As there were so few of us in school today, it was easy to socially distance in the hall. We sang 'Peace like a River' and said 'The School Prayer'. We congratulated everyone on his or her efforts during the week. At 11:00, we went outside and stood in silence for V.E. Day.



Numbers attending school have once again been manageable, under the current staffing regime. We continue to be here for those of you who require places. I know the whole staff is committed to supporting Key Workers so they can keep the country running. **Thank you, for all that you are doing.**

Once again, I would also like to thank those of you who continue to keep your children at home. You are also doing your bit! You help to keep our staff and pupils, as safe as possible. Mrs Watkins and I will continue to monitor numbers over the next couple of weeks. However, it is clear that we will have to re-organise our staffing rotas and routines as adaptations are made to the current rules of 'lockdown' (whenever this may happen).

Week 7 (4th May April – 8th May) SCHOOL TOTAL	Monday 21 pupils	Tuesday 22 pupils	Wednesday 22 pupils	Thursday 24 pupils	Friday 6 pupils
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I SPY



White dead- nettle



Dandelion



Buttercup



Red valerian



Daisy

Did you know?

White dead-nettle

White dead-nettle is a common plant of roadside verges, waste grounds and grassy banks - anywhere the ground has been disturbed. Like Yellow archangel, and other members of the dead-nettle family, it doesn't have stinging leaves. Its white flowers appear from March right the way through to December.

Common dandelion

The common dandelion is actually a variety of forms or 'micro-species' and there are a number of other dandelion species, so identification can be tricky. Nevertheless, look for the familiar yellow flower heads displaying closely packed florets (tiny flowers). The leaves of the common dandelion are lobed and spoon-shaped, and the stem exudes a milky white sap if it is broken. When it fruits, the seeds appear with their downy, white parachutes, and form a globular, packed seed head.

The English **name, dandelion**, is a corruption of the French dent de lion meaning "lion's tooth", referring to the coarsely toothed leaves.

Common daisy

The Common daisy has spoon-shaped leaves that form a rosette at the base of the plant, close to the ground and among the short grass, it favours. A single stem arises carrying the flower head - this is not just one flower, but a composite of a number of tiny flowers which make up the yellow disc in the middle ('disc florets') and the surrounding white 'ray florets' (which look just like petals).

Did you know that the **name “daisy”** comes from the term “day's eye?” This **name** is derived from the fact that the head of the common **daisy** closes at night, and re-opens in the morning.

Creeping buttercup

Creeping buttercup is the common buttercup found in damp places on grassland, along woodland and field edges, and in parks and gardens. It flowers mainly between May and August, its long, rooting runners helping it to spread across lawns - much to the dissatisfaction of some gardeners! Yet, this golden-cupped flower is a childhood favourite: if a yellow reflection appears when it is 'held up' to the chin, it is considered as a sign that the person likes butter.

Red valerian

The dense clusters of deep pink, almost crimson flowers, of Red valerian are unmistakeable as they grow out on tall stems from old, stone, walls, roadside verges, railway cuttings, cliffs and rocks. Introduced into gardens before the 1600s, this plant from the Mediterranean soon escaped and became naturalised in the wild. Despite its non-native status, it is a good source of nectar from May to October for bees, butterflies and moths like the Hummingbird Hawk-moth.

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/wildflowers>

This is a useful website if you want to identify wild flowers and to find out information about them! This is the website which provided the information above.

A message from Bath Spa University (A competition you may be interested in)

Dear all,

Bath Spa University is delighted to be working in partnership with the Royal Fine Art Commission Trust, to offer your pupils (age 5-8, 9-12, 13-16) an opportunity to take part, and win prizes (£100 - £600 for each age phase) in an art competition about re-imagining their local built environment.

During the current Covid-19 lockdown situation, we hope this will support their learning and well-being, as well as giving them the opportunity to be creative and to imagine a built environment they would like to design and create.

Full details of the 'See what I see' competition, is @ www.seewhatisee.me

We hope that they enjoy participating, and wish them every success in their submissions.

Kind regards,

Pat Black

Head of Teacher Education

Bath Spa University

A message from Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (A follow-up to a previous message)

Dear all,

We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who contributed to Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* Project. The response was fantastic with over 600 rainbows submitted and over 14,000 views in the first 24 hours.

If you have not yet seen the video, it can be viewed in full on our website <https://bsolive.com/news/bsa-voices-meet-over-the-rainbow/>, Facebook or Instagram. We have also put together a special art only edition on YouTube <https://youtu.be/CiqXBJT9eZ8>.

We hope you enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

All the best,
Catherine

Catherine Hoolihan

BSO Participate Coordinator (Schools)

Have a good weekend.

Love, peace and joy to all.

Kay Bridson

P.S. There will be another edition of the Class Newsletters coming out next week, so please get in touch with your teachers!

