



The Mill Messenger



National Support School
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National College for
Teaching & Leadership



Friday 22nd January 2021

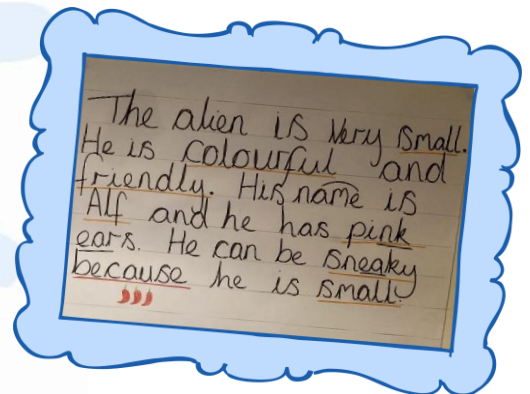
Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Each week, I want to focus on letting you know about teaching and learning across the school, share with you some of the highlights of the week and also some key bits of feedback from you that will help us improve. Here is a link to [next week's live timetable](#). Please remember the live sessions are only part of our remote offer, your children's Google classrooms have all the work for the week ahead on them. Also, for those of you with children in school, they too are accessing all the learning and joining the live sessions with their teachers in school.

On Monday, I joined in Year 3's live reading workshop with Mrs Taylor and I was really impressed with the confidence levels of the children joining in and reading aloud. It was great to hear the different responses that the children gave to Mrs Taylor's questions, and it felt like the sort of session they would actually be doing as normal in school, which is great.

Tuesday, I was able to join in Year 4's live celebration assembly where the teachers could give special mentions to children who had gone 'above and beyond' with their remote learning. A big thank you to you all as well here, because your encouragement of the children means that they engage with the learning, which of course means they achieve more over time.

Wednesday was great fun in Year 1's writing lesson. 39 children joined! All sorts of good ideas about what an alien might look like, Mrs T-J modelled for the children (Maurice behaved himself) and the children had a go on their own. We are ordering mini whiteboards and pens for you Year 1 and we'll let you know when you can come and collect them as that will help you with your ideas at home and joining in the live sessions. I also joined in Year 3's writing workshop - great use of the split screen for modelling writing Miss Jones - this helped all the children on the call contribute. During Year 5's writing workshop I was really impressed with the maturity of the ideas and I even learned something new - what a 'yoked sentence' is! The workshop worked well, with the children supporting each other with ideas and checking in with Miss Ingram about the best ways to use their writing toolkits.



On Thursday, I popped into Year 2's live celebration assembly and it was a pleasure to see again, so many children joining and sharing their hard work. So many of them had excelled at their remote learning and again, thanks go to you all at home as our younger children may well need some more support. It is clearly paying off as the work completed by Year 2 this week is excellent and there is a LOT of it!

Miss Plant managed to 'pop in' to a Year 4 live writing workshop, a Year 5 live Maths workshop (some genius technology used to help children see the calculations from Miss Perkins here) and also EYFS celebration assembly, which was great fun last week when I joined them.

There is honestly too much to list in terms of the purposeful and fun things that have been going on this week and my thanks go to all staff and all families who are working as a team together for the children. Some teachers have started making 'bloopers' of their mistakes and putting them on their classrooms for the children to enjoy... I won't name who just yet!

Some key bits of feedback to share with you from your Google responses that will help us improve:

- Can we stagger/lengthen the 'hand in dates' as the larger writing tasks take longer and your children want to submit things on time
- Please can we keep making sure that live sessions don't overlap between year groups if possible
- Keep up the calling home so that your children can speak to their teachers
- More feedback and also to ensure that the work submitted doesn't need to be printed out
- Live PE lessons a couple of times a week please

There were lots more and Miss Plant and I are sharing the responses with the teachers and teaching assistants as we are trying to be proactive about learning as we go. Please keep them coming in.

Thank you for your positive feedback, some examples of the many comments we have received:

- "There is some obvious missing of school from the child, but as with the teachers you can only work within the current parameters of lockdown."
- "From what I've experienced, the school has adapted and delivered a workable solution."
- "Thank you for your hard work."
- "I absolutely love the idea of the kids being able to see the teachers and friends."

And finally, something lovely from our Year 3s:
They have been busy creating a display this week, writing letters to the children at home and their positive wishes on the clouds.

Make sure you all take some time where you can for yourselves this weekend, life is challenging for you all at the moment.

Yours sincerely,



Sophie Gosden
Headteacher

