

Dear all,

Welcome to a fresh new week!

Hoping everyone has had a really good weekend, and that you'll all connect with us afresh this week via your new schedule of online live lessons for Y7-10, plus all the face to face time in school for Y10 and, of course, our mighty Keyworker group marches on, as it has every single day since the start of the lockdown. Can't wait to see those of you on site, and it continues to be brilliant talking to or messaging others of you from your homes.

If you haven't read Mr Hewitt's letter of instructions for the live lessons, for those of you in Years 7-9 who've not worked in this way before, or watched the help video, the link to it all is here:

Years 7-9 letter here (click) and Year 10 letter here (click)

It may be that you're not sure what you're doing, or you're feeling confused, but don't worry alone: reach out to one of your teachers or to any one of us, including me, and we will help you in the way you need.

The lessons are organised in such a way that you will really be able to structure your day and your workload afresh – I've used that word 'afresh' twice in this letter already quite deliberately. This whole situation needs freshening up for us all. As lockdown rules change and ease, that freshness would be best not to involve everyone doing whatever they want – even though I know you'll have seen people seeming to make that choice on the news – so that we don't end up with any kind of spike in our area of cases of this virus or any kind of tightening of lockdown in our area.

Instead, that freshness, for me, means making use of the easing of restrictions to make some plans to see people we love in the numbers we're allowed, to go to the places that will reopen in July and, in terms of school, to throw ourselves in to the new schedule for learning as well as we possibly can.

Anyone out there thinking, 'Well, the trouble is, I haven't done much up to now, so I don't want to join these lessons because I'll feel a real failure and spotlighted.'? If that's you, can I reassure you that the live lessons are a safe space in which we know we'll have students who've flown through all of their work in lockdown through to people who've found things much more difficult for a whole host of reasons. No one is going to be pounced on to do anything.

It's your chance to develop afresh (there it is again!) your working habits from home, and your relationships with teachers and each other. So, give it a go! There is nothing to lose, no way you'll be

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criticised for anything and it's the way every one of you will make some exciting progress in a new way in your learning, no matter your starting point right now.

Next week – beginning Monday July 6th – will be an important one, too. You will find out who your new tutor will be, and other information about ways we're going to connect with you all in the next few weeks. These weeks are going to re-energise us all about our school lives, and I also promise to let you know the most up to date guidance we will work to about September the very day the Government release it to us.

Competition: RESPECT Project – December 2020

Every week, I've focused on the importance of hard work and kindness combined for success, for self-care and for being true allies for each other, who ever we are, a I do when we're in school together. Only our best, in this respect, is good enough.

This competition has been sent to me in exactly that spirit by Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service who work with young people in our school, doing a great job for those who need that support with their wellbeing.

It looks ahead to December, inviting you to design Christmas cards that will keep LGBTQ+ issues in people's minds and create connection between you guys about these issues. It will give you something creative to do, in order to share important messages about being allies to each other including all LGBTQ+ students.





The details of how to enter are above, and I'd also love to see any entries at: headteacher@noadswood.hants.sch.uk

On the subject of connection through all this, I was reading about a woman called Julia who's been picking up rubbish on her walks in the woods throughout lockdown, and then, the other day, she saw another woman doing the same. Julia was really pleased, but then it got even better when the other lady told her that she'd been inspired to do it by Julia's example! I will be telling you more about Julia in this week's assembly, but for now, keep her in mind – if you do something kind or helpful or that looks after other people or our world, you will have a lasting impact on someone else. So why not design a Christmas card for that competition as a starting point?

Last week's wonderful work:

There's a superb array of work to share with you in this week's letter, so let's kick things off with the magnificent Robbie (week 13 of work – knock out!) and some excellent science revision by Marcus:



Staying with science, check out Megan's successful experiment at home – her red cabbage indicator practical. Well done!







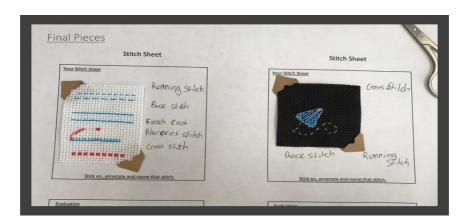


The Science team have been congratulating lots of our science stars - they have nominated and sent out 63 'Science Star' certificates via ePraise to students in Years 7-10. Feeling inspired? Make sure you get your science work done and that you share it with your teacher. A certificate could come your way and I'd love to give you a shout out in this letter.

Next up, Phoebe's simile packed poem to capture the behaviour of a lion, that she's illustrated with a gorgeous picture of the king of the jungle:



Love that, Phoebe, well played! There's more creativity of a very different kind from Cal with his textiles research and final piece stitch sheets, seen here:





He's done an equally top job with his thinking around deforestation in Malaysia, reminding us how important it is that we're all aware of what's happening in different parts of our world because of its impact on the climate, the ecosystem and on employment:



Are Malaysia's deforestation measures sustainable?

- I don't think it is sustainable as it can take 100 years for a tree to grow. By the time the new saplings have grown the problem will have escalated beyond help.
- Although this is a good measure to have in place to plant a tree for a tree, it is sadly not enough especially with a lot of timber being cut illegally also.
- Ecotourism can help, not only by providing jobs but also making the world aware.

Isabelle has also looked at Malaysia whilst Benjamin has looked at the Limon rainforest in Costa Rica:

Successful?

In my opinion I think that the effort to stop deforestation in Malaysia is successful to a point. There are several ways that people are trying to stop deforestation. People are offering to help by volenteering to become forest rangers, these are people who look after the forest, they check to see if anyone is cutting down trees. Many people offer to do this and it is a great and efficient way of saving rainforests.



What is the future like for the Limon Tropical Rainforest?

As you can see from the graphs on the last slide, although the rainforest is still losing land, the rate of deforestation has fallen significantly since 1980 and is continuing to fall gradually.

I think that the future looks good for Limon as the Strategies that have been implemented are working, and as time moves forward and technology develops, I think that there will be new strategies put in place to support the strategies that had been previously implemented.



Both tell us that the future for these forests depends on people – there are strategies in place to protect them, but people have to commit to the strategies and not put their need for profit up ahead of protecting this kind of unique environment. More about connection between us and our natural environment!

Isabelle has provided excellent research in her Religious Studies work including this excellent A-Z of some of religion's key terms – how many of these words did you know?

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A-Z RS RELGION
          Athesim - Not believing in gods or religions
          B = Burkas, religious pieces of clothing
          D = Darwin - The theory of evolution
              Extremism - Extreme religious views
             Forgiveness – Forgive and forget
              G = Goddess - A female deity
                Heaven, hell and other afterlifes
                  I = Idols and icons
                  Jesus – A worshipped man
                  K = Kosher - FOOD!
           Laws and Rules - Rules we must follow
           M = Mediation and prayer - Relaxation
               N = Number - Mathematics
                O = Omnis - Power of god
     P = Prophets - Christianity, Judaism and Islamic
            Q = Qur'an and other holy books
                  R = Rituals - Candles
                        S = Saint
                 Temples – Religious buildings
              U = Uncertainty - Yes or no?
                Virtue - High moral standards
   W = Wealth - Money, mansions, best conditions
X = Xenophobia

    A dislike to people in a different country
    Y = Yom Kippur – Festivals
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I like nothing more than reading your creative writing, and so I hope you guys enjoy these stories by Isobelle and J-P. Isobelle's is a beautifully uplifting tale about the power of the human spirit to change our world:

This story starts in China 2040.

Nakita Woo walked out of her house and looked up at the clear blue sky. She did this every morning and remembered how China used to be and how it was saved.

Her father once to her a story of a family living in old China. The sky was covered with a thick blanket of grey smog; no one had ever seen blue sky. All of the family, but Noua, worked in a massive factory.



Noua refused to work in the factory because it damaged the environment. Instead, she spent her time planning protests or speeches to make others aware of the situation.

5 years later

Noua had been all over the world and seen all types of living styles. Her favourite was the country side. It was full of free roaming animal, trees, plants and blue skies. "This is how China should look!" she said with a sigh.

Another 5 years later

Noua had introduced Green energy to her family and many factories. All of these people either used solar or wind powered energy. Just by doing this Noua knew this would make a big impact. So she carried on persuading and explaining to people how to save their planet.

Only 2 months later

Now, nearly all of China was using green energy and it was all down to Noua. The smog was so thin that she was sure she kept seeing glimpses of blue. "Not long now." She thought with a grin.

4 months later

Noua woke up to screams ad gasps of joy and wonder. "did I really do it" she said as she jumped out of bed. She ran to the window threw back her curtains and gasped. It was beautiful! Birds flew through the sky, electric planes soared to, electric cars and no smog was to be seen. Tear rolled down her cheek. There was a knock on the door and press came to ask Noua many questions. What a hero.

2040

"Thankyou Noua!" Nakita said as she gazed down at the clear pond and saw the blue sky glistening back.

J-P's story is so descriptive and he creates a wonderful sense of scene setting, magic and mystery in his writing:

Frosty Peaks

I stare off the edge of the icy cliff. The freezing winds brushed against my feathers and occasionally pierced my skin beneath. A sharp squawk from behind me caught my attention and I turned towards the sound. My cousin, the head of our colony, lifted his yellow neck into the air and released the harsh sound from his beak again. Waddling over to him, something felt different. I was shaking. I quickly scanned my surroundings. Everyone was shaking. The ground was shaking. And that was when I ran.

TWO DAYS AGO

I had the smallest beak when I hatched. The leader at the time had deemed me as a runt. So, in other words, I was the first Emperor Penguin to have less respect than that of an Adélie. I was mostly raised by my cousin Pino. Admittedly, he wasn't always the best adoptive parent. He once left me in a cave for a whole day. He blamed me. He had said that my constant squawking was messing with his memory. And when he became the leader, he left me to fend for myself.



It's not easy being the runt. I had to hunt on my own. I had to eat on my own (Yes, there was more to eat but it felt strange). I had to talk to myself. The only time I hung out with the rest of the colony was during a storm. We huddle tightly and for one moment, I feel like I have a proper family.

I wandered towards Pino's "Palace" (Just a cave with his own fishing hole) and was stopped by Ock, my cousin's personal guard.

"You! Runt! Where are you going?" Ock called

"I wish to see Pino" I replied

"You wish to see Leader Pino of Northern Penguinland?" Ock asked in a mocking squawk

"Yes, and it's Antarctica, not Penguinland." I laughed

Ock raised his shiny, wet flipper and prepared to strike.

"Ock! Stop!" Pino shouted

Pino lead me into his Ice-Throne room and sat me on a frozen piece of ocean debris. I had never been in the Palace before. I looked around and noticed several dozen roughly cut sculptures of past leaders on short stands. I also noticed a strange item which didn't seem to belong. A soft box filled with thin white sheets, I believe it is called a book.

"Now. Runt. What do you want? I have a colony to manage!"

"I...I would like t...to have that thing" I pointed to the book

He carefully scooped it under a flipper and looked confused for a second. He passed it to me. I waved goodbye and left.

PRESENT DAY

I toppled over some jagged ice. I had never felt anything like this before. I had the book held tight in my side by my flipper as I pulled myself back up. The Ice cracked beneath my feet. The shock caused the book to slip from my side down the crack and I dived after my treasure...

Finally, for this week's budding authors, it's Max's writing, with another upbeat message about justice and fairness coming through in the end for Stanley:

Camp green lake 1905:

At the age of 13 Stanley Yelnats the first was a proud farmers hand who helped about his fathers land and crops steering cattle to plough fields and hand planting corn to help his father get food for his family and for it to be sold at the weekend market to make living.

It was on a beautiful spring morning when Stanley was on his way to the farmers market when a group of thugs rode past him and dumped the potatoes and produce they stole from the market upon the back of Stanley cart. Due to the rapid stallions' hooves thundering down the narrow-beaten path Stanley did not hear the clink of stolen goods being tossed upon his steed. As he approached the vast array of farmers stalls in the market to set up shop Stanley was



attacked by a group of angry farmers. Not knowing what had happened, Stanley screamed for help, but to no avail. As the surrounding faces scowled upon him as he had just committed a serious crime Stanley realised what had happened. He finally understood the faces and the farmers and what had happened as those highwaymen passed his cart. However, he still did not know what to do, he had no proof, no evidence let alone anyone on his side. He tried to explain but no one believed him. I mean he had their goods on his wagon, he was stuck with no help. All he could do was to pray for the beating to stop and for the punishment not to be harsh.

The next day Stanley was sentenced to two years at Camp Green Lake a satisfying victory for the farmers but quite the opposite for poor Stanley. He would have to dig holes everyday for two years of his life even though he didn't commit the crime he was charged with. He was bullied in the first place let alone at a camp for misbehaving horrid boys. It was bound to be the last of his happy farming days. Even his own father did not believe that he did not steal the farmers' goods. So even when Stanley returns from this hardcore place, he would have to endure his dad's punishments.

It was inevitable.

For three long months Stanley worked tirelessly to keep up with the fellow inmates to not get bullied, mocked or attacked. He wished for it to end and wanted for people even just a single person to notice that he was falsely accused, innocent, he thought the day would never come. A month later Stanley had had enough he knew he needed to do something before it was too late and impossible to escape, for someone to believe him. So he wrote a speech, to try and get the inmates on his side and the workers of the camp to notice that he didn't belong there, it was hard for him to write with his bleeding calloused fingers however it was a success. They believed him, he was over the moon. The first part of his plan had been completed, now for the second part persuading the farmers and judge. Due to the sentence from the judge the camp workers had to legally keep the inmates otherwise a warrant would be issued for their arrest so the only the officers could travel away and share Stanley's story. He had no control on what they were saying, doing or who they were telling. It was a dangerous task but a risk he was willing to make to get free. The story was spreading across the town, rumours were about as well as some doubts, but it was good enough. It was just what he needed for the last step to work, finding the bandits who did it, the thieves that made his life a misery to be proof that is was not him that stole it and it all came down to one place -a small barn, where he saw them enter shortly after his attack. So, with a few farmers and inmates Stanley entered with great rage, seeing him enter they fled to a back room in fear of being caught. Despite the size and age difference, Stanley didn't care about storming the room and catching them himself, adrenaline is very powerful.

His dream came true, with the thieves locked up, him back farming and no-one angry at him the next few weeks were the best in his life until

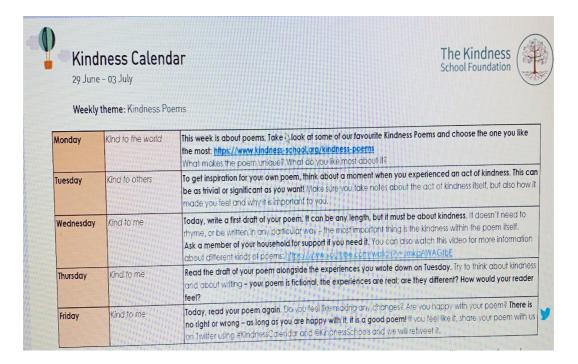
We'll end this week's work with Sydney's super efforts with her Maths:





Congratulations to everyone who's featured in this letter, and to all of you who've worked hard in the last week, as well as to those of you who have been a good friend and supportive to your family – we're so proud of you for it all.

I will end this week with an invitation to you to write some feel good poetry:



This week's calendar suggests you take a look at some Kindness Poems at www.kindness-school.org/kindness-poems and then follow it up by writing some lines of your own. It suggests that you draft it out then go back to it over a few days, making tweaks, and thinking about how it would make the reader feel. If you write, why not share it with your English teacher or with me at headteacher@noadswood.hants.sch.uk – your writing inspires us to stay creative ourselves, so thank you for it all.

Wishing you all a great week, and I look forward to chatting to some of you over Teams or on the phone later in the week to hear about how those live lessons are working out for you all.

Take care and keep safe,

Miss M