



## Introduction

As April 2020 is over and we enter another month, I want to reflect on how we are working at this time.

The decision to close schools came with relatively short notice in an ever-evolving situation. In this time, staff worked very hard to not only prepare rotas and plans for children of key workers to be in school, but also how to provide children not in school with something meaningful to do.

Whatever your circumstances, we know this is an incredibly difficult time and managing children's "learning" is just part of the current complexity of life. This form of online "learning" is new to us all and we would much rather be able to see the children getting the specialist support that teachers and support staff give so well. Here are some reminders which might help when you are struggling.

- Routines are important to us all, but especially children. Trying to stick to them will help, but realistically we all have days when this doesn't work and we need to be flexible. This is fine, it happens to us all.
- School work and learning is important, but this is not home schooling, you are not teaching your children like they would be taught at school and you can't do everything.
- The work we provide is there to help. There should be some things that children can manage independently. Under normal circumstances though, teachers and support staff constantly work with children to support them with their learning. You can't be expected to do this.
- Your children almost certainly won't be able to sit still for as long as they do at school. They won't concentrate for as long. They will be more easily distracted – we don't have televisions at school, or the children's favourite toys and games at school; we don't have siblings in the same room all day. We don't have access to a fridge, cupboards of food or their own choice of clothes to wear each day.

This is not normal, this is not schooling. It is the best we can all do given the circumstances. So, please don't feel guilty if you and your children need a day off. Don't feel bad about it if you don't log in and check for messages, feedback and assignments every day. Don't worry about not checking class Dojo or not doing a Joe Wicks workout. This is not a competition and you shouldn't compare yourselves to other – that's not how we work at school either, even more so at this time when all things are far from equal. Just keep trying, doing your best and managing what you can. Try to keep a routine in place whenever you can – it will help you and your children – but it is ok for your children to go 'off timetable' and build a den, play a game, bake a cake, watch a film, go for a walk, tidy their bedroom, wash the car, have a video call with their friends, etc

We will keep on posting work and ideas for activities online but don't feel pressured to do them all. We are just trying to help keep your children's minds active and to help you manage as families.

Please stay safe and take care of each other.  
Lee Haynes

## A joint note from Mr Haynes and the Local Governing Committee

Although the change of headteacher to the current interim arrangement has provided additional challenge, we are committed to maintaining school development. We are working together to build on the recent curriculum progress and other improvements and there will be no pause during this interim situation. We're already looking to the future by recruiting new staff to the team, so that we will be fully prepared when we return to the normal routine. Be assured that the 'feel' of the school will remain the same - the core values that we (parents, pupils, staff and governors) developed jointly last year will endure; they are what we determined as a community for our school and our children. We discussed this at a governor meeting last week and will be working together to make sure this is clear and obvious through all that we do.

Rob Dixon  
Chair of Governors

Lee Haynes  
Interim Executive Headteacher



## IMPORTANT

### How to book a school place

Restrictions have not been changed at this time. You may still only book a place at school if you are essential workers **and have no alternative**. Please call the school on 01904 555495 or email [office@hempland.pmat.academy](mailto:office@hempland.pmat.academy) with details of what you need **by 4pm of the Wednesday before** – we have planned staffing carefully based on these numbers and ask you to stick to these bookings and to contact us if you have a problem.

If you are working from home, you should keep your children with you there. Thank you.

One of the senior leadership team of Mr Haynes, Mrs Innes and Mrs Boulton, supported by Nicola Massey from the academy trust, are in school each week whilst the school is closed, so you will get answers to any questions you may have – please send them through the office email account as normal.

### Reminder - Fingerspellathon

Deaf Awareness Week is on 4 – 10 May this year. Children and families can sign up and then get resources to learn BSL finger spelling and raise money for the National Deaf Children's Society. It has all been designed to be done in lockdown this year. Follow this link for more information and to take part <https://www.ndcs.org.uk/fingerspellathon>



### Useful Links

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p08bmd70/get-well-soon-coronavirus>

This link is for a CBeebies programme that talks about the Coronavirus and has a song about handwashing.

If you are looking for any ideas for VE day next week/weekend, here are a few things;

Video explaining VE day

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-ve-day/z7xtmfr>

Link to Great British Bunting project.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4TrqYDyf4PMdLypxzyTwGDg/great-british-bunting>

VE day musical activity

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/bring-the-noise/ve-day-2020/zksjihv>

The official VE day organisation are also encouraging all those taking part to undertake the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' at 3pm on the 8th May, from the safety of their own home by standing up and raise a glass of refreshment of their choice and undertake the following 'Toast' – "To those who gave so much, we thank you," using this unique opportunity to pay tribute to the many millions at home and abroad that gave so much to ensure we all enjoy and share the freedom we have today.

Sustrans have launched '[Cycles for Key Workers](#)', a single information point to make cycling easier for key workers as they travel to and from work during Covid-19.



The NSPCC has teamed up with O2 to produce an online safety book for parents.

[https://static-www.o2.co.uk/sites/default/files/2020-01/O2%20NSPCC%20Online%20Safety%20Booklet\\_AW\\_English.pdf](https://static-www.o2.co.uk/sites/default/files/2020-01/O2%20NSPCC%20Online%20Safety%20Booklet_AW_English.pdf)



## What's been happening in school this week?

Week 6 has flown by and we have had lots of fun in school. As well as working on our home learning packs each morning, we've had a fantastic STEM afternoon where the children tried out lots of fabulously messy water experiments. One included Miss Padbury inserting pencils into a bag of water above Miss Humphreys' head!

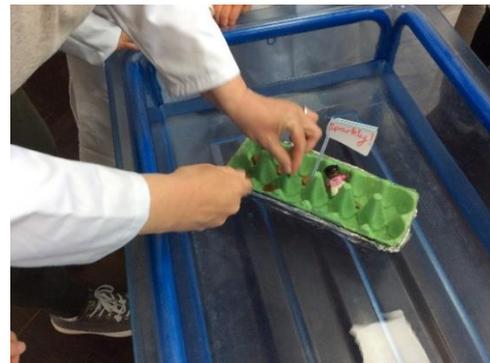
Links to these experiments can be found below so you can try them at home but make sure you are sensible!

STEM CENTRE-Whatever Floats Your Boat Challenge: <http://www.edisonmuckers.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Whatever-Floats-Your-Boat.pdf>

An Indestructible Sandwich Bag: <https://www.sublimescience.com/free-science-experiments/indestructible-sandwich-bag/>

The Magic Water Trick: <https://www.sublimescience.com/free-science-experiments/the-magic-water-trick/>

We also composed film scores using a range of instruments and designed and built clay pots! The children are keeping as active as possible and we have been trying out netball, cricket and basketball. Fingers crossed for warmer weather next week!





Some ideas for keeping active this month:



## Keep Active in May!



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p><b>Start the challenges on 1<sup>st</sup> May and see if you can complete every day. Keep safe and keep active!</b></p> <p><b>See if you can beat some of your challenges by trying more than once!</b></p>				1. How long can you hold a plank for? Challenge people in your house. Record your top score.	2. Create your own obstacle course.	3. Balance on one leg. How many different ways can you think of?
4. Play rock, paper, scissors with people in your house. Give a forfeit to the loser e.g. squats, star jumps, running.	5. Balloon tennis. How many times can you pass without it touching the ground? Use different body parts.	6. Find a yoga video and join in!	7. Wall throws. Throw a ball at the wall and catch it. Can you swap hands?	8. How many different body parts can you balance on? Swap after 20 seconds on each balance.	9. Go out for a family walk or bike ride. How far will you manage?	10. Penalty shoot out. Set up some targets as goal posts. How many times can you score in a row without missing?
11. Create your own yoga routine and teach it to other people in the house.	12. Target practice. Use some recycling as targets and time how long it takes you to knock everything over using a ball or sock.	13. Can you complete some fitness activities? Shuttle runs, star jumps, sit ups, burpees.	14. Can you jog for more than 5 minutes? More than 10 minutes? On the spot or get out in the fresh air!	15. Create a fitness routine, you could write it out and then teach it. Add some music to make it more fun!	16. Can you complete some gardening? Or help to tidy up the outside space today.	17. Keep up the ball. Use a tennis racket, your hand or a book to see how many times you can keep the ball up.
18. Scavenger hunt. Can you find items that start with the letters 'KANGA SPORTS'? Time it!	19. How many star jumps can you do in 1 minute? Try again later in the day and see if you can beat your score.	20. Check the weather. Rain- 20 star jumps Sun- 20 burpees Cloud- 1 minute high knees.	21. Set up a target practice game for people in your house. Write the rules and teach it.	22. Shuttle runs. How many runs can you complete in a minute? Choose a different way to travel.	23. Play tig with a family member. Use a sock to throw at them to make it harder.	24. Go out for a family walk or bike ride. Can you go further than your last exercise?
25. Find a Zumba video online and join in.	26. Keep it up. Find a ball (or something round) and count how many times you can kick it up or knee ups.	27. Bat and ball. See how far you can fit the ball using a bat. Can you aim it into a different direction?	28. Create a new game that you would play using throwing and catching skills.	29. Set up a series of circuits. Plank, shuttle runs, burpees etc.	30. Who can do the most... Squats, burpees, leg raises, star jumps.	31. Set up a mini sports day at home and make a certificate for the winner!