

# Newsletter – Spring Term



Wistaston Academy  
Primary and Nursery School  
Together We Learn • Together We Achieve

## This Week's Events

Date	Event
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	ALL CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL Science week
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Let's Count Day!
<b>Advanced Notice:</b>	
<b>Polite Notice:</b>	<b>Please note the school office opens at 8.30am each morning and is manned until 4.30pm. Before and after these times, there will be no access to the Main Reception area.</b>

## Full Return to School

We are all so excited to welcome all children back into school next week. Parents/carers, could we please ask that you respect the social distancing of others, the wearing of face coverings and follow the one-way system in place on the school grounds. We are still in a lockdown and have to do everything we can to protect the community we serve.

**Just a reminder:** Don't forget the staggered start and finish times that have been shared with you this week.

## PE with Mrs Adamczyk

**PE** with Mrs Adamczyk

Starts on Monday  
11th January at 9:30am.

The sessions will be live on Monday's, Wednesday's & Thursday's at 9:30am on our school [facebook](#) page.

Exercises will be suitable for all year groups.

There will also be some special guest appearances along the way!!!



Healthy body + Healthy mind  
= Happy life



That's a wrap! What an amazing 7 weeks of live workouts we've done together! Thank you to everyone that joined in. I think we've kept each other going throughout another tough lockdown. I've loved every second and I can't wait to see you all next week.

### PE Kit

Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school. Due to the current restrictions we are unable to give out any spare kit. Your child's PE kit should stay in school until the Easter holidays. Where possible we will continue to do PE outside so please ensure your children have warm outdoor kit.

Indoor PE kit: Green T Shirt, black shorts, black pumps



Outdoor PE kit: Black or navy blue plain jogging bottoms, hoodie or zip up and trainers. Children may wear a plain black or navy blue waterproof jacket and appropriate winter hat if they wish.



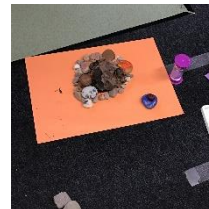
### Art News

What a fabulously creative week we have had yet again! Well done everyone! Here are a few highlights:

#### Land Art in Reception:



A special well-done to Hallam at home!



#### Painting and Printmaking in Year 1 and 2



Aanya

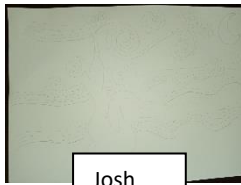
Harper



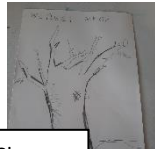
Lynette

Drawing and painting

in Year 3



Josh



Skye



Sylvia-Rose



Isabella had fun blowing the paint on her tree

Daniel was trying to see if his picture would move if he stared at it hard enough!



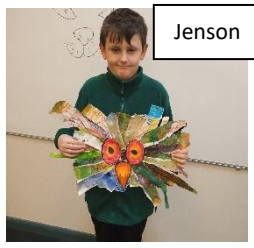
Year 4 Mixed-Media



Tristan



Lucas



Jenson



Jacob



Riley



Sophie



Sophie-Mai



Millie



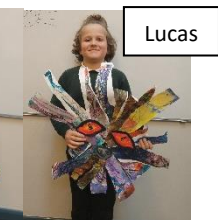
Alfie



Skye



Alfie

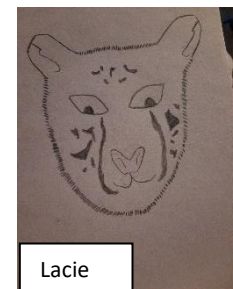


Lucas

Year 6 Drawing



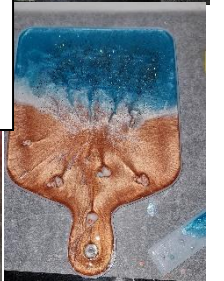
Lacey



Lacie



Rhys's incredible epoxy resin creations!



### British Science week 5<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> March



This year, teachers will be organising fun Science activities for your children to do at school to celebrate British Science week. British Science week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths. The theme for this year is 'innovating for the future'. There will be a poster competition taking place which your children will be informed about at school next week.

### Let's Count Day!



As the next census is taking place on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March, we will be taking part in an education programme called 'Let's Count'. As part of this, your child will be learning more about what the census is and why it's important. We will then be collecting and presenting our own data about our school's local area.

### British Values

Picture News  
1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

#### UN Rights of a Child

Children have the right to live in a clean and safe environment. Companies who package their products using recyclable materials can support children with this.



HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT



#### British Values

1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021

#### Mutual Respect and Tolerance

We have a choice as to whether we buy drink bottles with recyclable packaging. Which drink we choose will have an effect on the amount of packaging that can be recycled and the amount that goes into landfill.

Picture News

## Supporting early reading



### Top tips for story time:

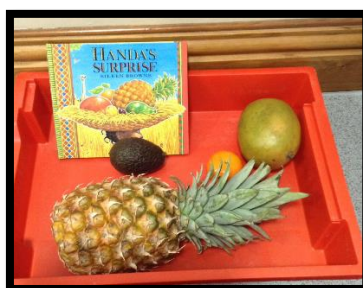
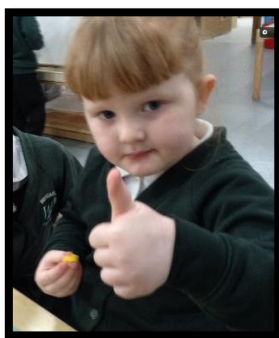


**Show curiosity in what you're going to read.** 'This should be funny – it's about a little boy who turns into a potato'

- **Read favourite stories again and again.** Encourage children to join in with the bits that they know. Hesitate before you read the last word and see if they can jump in and finish the sentence.
- **Chat about the story.**  
'I wonder why he did that'  
'Oh no, I hope she's okay'  
'I bet she's feeling excited now'
- **Link stories to your own and your child's experiences.** 'This reminds me of...'
- **Don't stop reading to children when they can read for themselves.** What you read today, they might choose to read tomorrow.
- **Read with enthusiasm.** Try out different voices.
- **Read with enjoyment.** If you're not enjoying it, you've chosen the wrong book! 😊

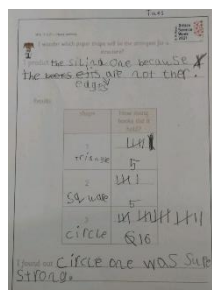
### Nursery learning

This week in nursery we have been continuing our being healthy topic by exploring some different types of fruit. First, we used our sense of touch to feel the textures of the fruits and then we looked at each one carefully. Next, we cut the fruits open and used our sense of smell. Then, we used our sense of taste and everybody tried each one! Finally, we explored some of the fruit in our exploration tray.



### Year 1 learning

This week, we started our Science Week early and carried out lots of experiments. We made structures to see which one was the strongest by seeing how many books it could hold.



We also made paper spinners and carried out experiments with ice.



### Year 2 learning

As part of their topic about food, this week the children have been baking bread. We can't believe how delicious it looks-we think there might be a few 'Bake off' stars in the making! Well done Year 2 (and the adults that helped).



### Year 3 learning

This week, in Literacy, we have been looking back at our journey through lockdown. We did a lot of creative writing and wrote some beautiful poems! In Art, we painted our Starry Night drawings! They look fantastic!

Take a look at Skye, Sylvia-Rose and Daniel's work!



### Year 4 learning

As part of this term's learning, the children have been finding out about the Victorians. We have seen some great fact files and informative texts about famous Victorians and Victorian inventions.

Well done.



**The Victorians**

Queen Victoria was a great leader. She was intelligent, successful and had a mind for Photographs. When they were invented, Queen Victoria loved them at first sight and her husband Prince Albert collected thousands of photographs that were finally displayed in a museum. She enjoyed opera, painting and singing! Did you know that Queen Victoria became Queen when she was only 18!!



02.03.2021 History  
Victorians


**First Fact**  
In 1833 Shaftesbury proposed that children should work for a maximum of 10 hours per day.

**What houses did the Victorians live in?**  
A poor Victorian family would live in a very small home, whereas a poor and big rich one had in ONE room. It was because the poor couldn't have their own houses.



**What houses and how did the rich Victorians live?**  
Rich houses had SEVERAL rooms. Some rich houses had three or even four floors. Did you know that rich homes for Victorians had millions of pounds of paintings on walls and ceilings. These homes were very fancy in those days. In them we had a living room.

**What toys and games did Victorian children play with?**  
Children from rich families played with rocking horses, train sets, dolls, hoops and top spinners. Did you know that a thousand years ago was very popular during the Victorian era?

**What did poor children have to play with?**  
Children from poor families played with home made toys such as skipping, dolly, spinning tops and skipping ropes.



**Queen Victoria**  
Queen Victoria was queen at 18 years old and stopped at 82 (her death). She was on the throne for 64 years. She was the longest monarch. 1837 - 1901 she was queen. She was known as the grandmother of Europe. Shockingly she had 9 children. She collected many photos. She filled 120 books.

Ice cream was really famous in the Victorian times. But ice cream was different in the Victorian times. In 1851, Jacob Fussell decided to make ice cream for the first time. (And I am very grateful for it). Did you know that ice cream was invented in the US?? Jacob Fussell wanted ice cream to be invented because he wanted to help children get more food in their bodies. Now ice cream is really famous in our country. ICE CREAM FOR LIFE!

Queen Victoria was the queen, she was the longest monarch during the Victorian times. She loved writing in her diary and did you know that she wrote 2000 words a day in total that was 6 million. And Queen Victoria liked collecting photographs of her. Queen Victoria had a husband called Prince Albert.

### Year 5 learning

Over the last two weeks, Year 5 have been working hard in Literacy and this is the result of their efforts. We are so proud of their finished products. We think that you will enjoy them as much as we have! Here are Isla's, Maya's, Lillian's, Jackson's, Romeo's and Harlow's.



If I had hope  
by Cillian Brett

If I had hope  
I would feel the hearts of others  
And fill them with joy.

If I had hope  
I would taste the flavours of the  
Fruit exploding  
As juicy as it flows.

If I had hope  
I would listen to the sound  
of singing birds  
That dance on the rooftops.

If I had hope  
I would smell the scent of  
freshness  
my crust in the beauty of  
nature refilled and calm.

If I had hope  
I would see visions of happiness  
Surround me  
Who wouldn't want that!

If I had hope  
I would wish for love with no hate.  
And give us a world full of wonder and  
hope.

If I Had Hope  
By Isla Williams

If I had hope,  
I would sample bee's honey,  
As sweet as flowers pollen.

If I had hope,  
I would listen to the children chatter,  
As they watched the leaves dance.

If I had hope,  
I would rub away the darkness,  
And replace it with light.

If I had hope,  
I would calmly inhale weakness,  
And powerfully breathe out strength.

If I had hope,  
I would stare into the future,  
And make it a better place.

If I had hope,  
I would visualize a stress-free world,  
And peace for all.

Tuesday 2nd March  
Show what you know

If I had hope  
I would try to share it with people who need it most  
and reach into other peoples hearts.

If I had hope  
I would taste the air as I run in the  
bright Summers Sun  
and run around as I taste the fresh  
green grass.

If I had hope

If I had hope  
I would hold up unenergized hand  
and give them my strength.

If I had hope  
I would gnaw the Sun's surface  
as hot as every chili existing on Earth.

If I had hope  
I would hear silent whispers  
that swish around the frozen statues

If I had hope  
I would peacefully draw in  
my trust in my friends and family.

If I had hope

### Poem 02.02.21

If I had hope,  
I would caress the arms of the people in need,  
And guide them to the next right step

If I had hope,  
I would taste the most flavoured, scrumptious and sparkling lemonade,  
Which tasted like summer's organic sour lemons

If I had hope,  
I would listen to happy children scream in joy as they play,  
In the park on a fine sunny day

If I had hope,  
I would calmly inhale the sense of happiness  
And move them to the step of success

If I had hope,  
I would observe the positivity,  
And help the people that are negativity

If I had hope,  
I would dream the world in peace and harmony,  
World-wide.

Tuesday 2nd March Jackson Keith

If I had hope  
I would breathe in a bouquet,  
and innocence would be restored.

If I had hope,  
I would spy on the prides of lions,  
while I catch a glimmer of their flourishing.

If I had hope,  
I would crunch the sugar from the clouds,  
as sweet cotton candy.

If I had hope,  
I would overhear the morning birds  
That chirp merrily about the newly flavoured bluebells.

If I had hope,  
I would embrace the sad souls,  
Then offer them my strength.

If I had hope,  
I would fantasize about the future,  
and envisage peace and harmony.

## Year 6 learning

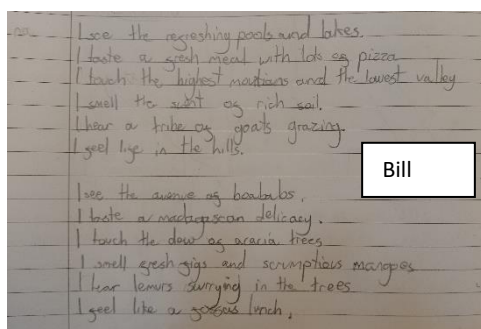


Year 6 had lots of fun for World Book Day. Zach decided to even make some lettered shortbread to celebrate.

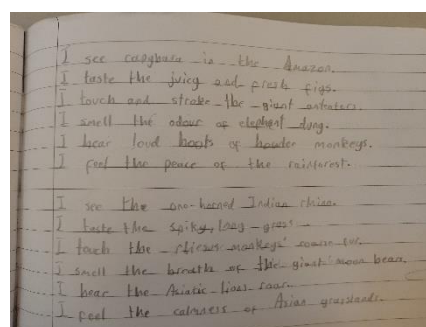
We saw lots of great costumers too – here's Lacie as Mary Poppins.



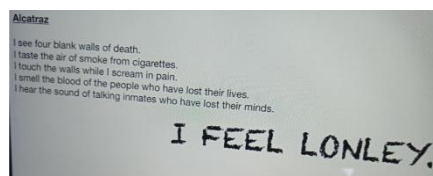
Year 6 enjoyed our poetry workshop this week and created some interesting poems. We used our senses to describe a place of our choice:



Bill



Jacob



I FEEL LONLEY.



What parents & carers need to know about...

# AMAZON ALEXA



Alexa is an artificial intelligence (AI) software assistant created by Amazon in 2014 through which smartphone, tablet and smart device users can issue voice commands and ask questions in a range of languages by issuing the 'wake' or activation word Alexa. It can be accessed in several ways and is integrated into a growing number of 'smart' products including speakers, phones and clocks. Once viewed as expensive gimmicks, Alexa is now one of the most used voice assistants in the world.

## Privacy concerns

By their nature, AI voice assistants involve the collection of large amounts of data. How this is stored and the uses to which it is put has aroused growing concern. Experts also worry about who has access to voice recordings, which in 2019 the company admitted sometimes included employees of Amazon and its commercial partners. There is also the more general anxiety that internet voice assistants might record private conversations and not only commands or questions.

## Age-inappropriate content

Using Alexa as a speaker to play your favourite songs is one of the most popular uses for the device. However, without any parental controls in place, Alexa won't filter the lyrics so it's possible that children could hear something they shouldn't. Similarly, Alexa isn't always able to identify who or what age the person is who is issuing a voice command so if children ask a question which might not be age-appropriate, the chances are they're likely to get an age-inappropriate answer.



## Insecure devices

The devices and their background services are another worry, which can have software vulnerabilities that make them insecure in complex ways. In 2020, for instance, researchers discovered that the services to which Echo products connect were insecure, potentially allowing hackers to access personal information such as voice conversations. In 2017, researchers were able to directly hack an Amazon Echo to send audio to attackers. Amazon has a good record of fixing security problems when they are discovered but it is never possible to fix every problem.

## Changing Tech Relationships

In a 2019 report published by the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, concerns were raised on the disruptive effect that voice assistants and smart speakers, such as Alexa, were having on the way that children interact with technology. From building sentiment and forming relationships which could encourage them to overshare personal details, to a fear of consuming content driven by commercial algorithms and an inability to assess reliability, how Alexa operates could considerably change children's relationship with technology in both the short and long term.



## Safety Tips

### Check privacy settings

It's possible to delete Alexa's recordings either entirely, or for a given period, with the instruction "Alexa, delete everything I said." Alternatively, set up the Alexa account privacy settings for that account to delete recordings every three or 18 months. Existing recordings made using the Alexa app can be deleted via Settings > Alexa Privacy > Review Voice History. A final tweak is to turn off the setting that allows Amazon to 'use voice recordings to improve Amazon services.'

### Control voice input

If privacy is paramount, one idea is to locate Echo devices in only one room rather than having several throughout the home. In addition, Alexa can be activated only when it is needed by manually turning off the microphone on Echo devices between use. Users can tell when Alexa is in listening mode as an indicator light should appear or an audible tone should sound.

### Set pin code

Amazon account users can order items from the company using a voice command, for example "Alexa, buy some toilet paper." To counter accidental use or misuse and avoid racking up big bills, this can either be disabled or protected with a PIN code (it should be noted that this is an audible PIN however, so is not as secure as a typed code).

### Look out for 'Skills' apps

A big appeal of Alexa is that thousands of companies have created apps, which Amazon calls 'Skills', that add useful capabilities, often integrations with other products or services. These are installed by asking Alexa to 'open/play/start' the skill. For example, a travel skill might be installed to check and automate checking train times and hotel bookings. However, it's important to remember that each of these might have a different privacy policy. A cautious approach is to install as few as possible, de-installing ones no longer in use.

### Talk about technology

As more and more homes install voice assistants and smart speakers such as Alexa, it's a good idea to talk to children about safe use of technology. Talk to them about what Alexa can be used for, how useful it can be and how to use it properly. Use it together to begin with and discuss any concerns they might have. Always make sure that children know to never share any personal or sensitive information and that if they need to talk about anything, they should always speak to a trusted adult.

## Meet our expert

John E. Dunn has edited and written for numerous computer and technology magazines since the early 1990s, most recently Which Computing, The Register, Forbes.com, Techworld, Computerworld and Naked Security. He is a specialist in online cybersecurity and cybercrime and their growing effect on education, young people and the public.

