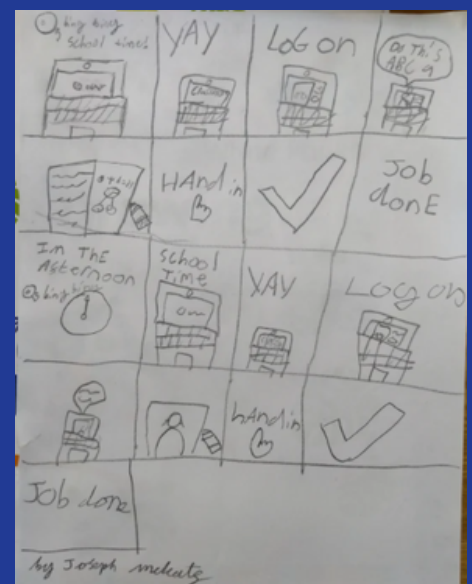


Kids Rock!

A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

Hi, I hope you are all having a good time in lockdown even though we can not see our friends. I can not wait to see you all back at school. Hopefully, we will go back to school soon. We would love to hear what you have been up to in lockdown. Hopefully, you have still had fun at home with your family, and been creative. It has been nice to see some of my friends in the live lessons and at storytime.

Charlotte, Year 4



Exploring other cultures

The Willows children all received an exciting delivery this week, which included chopsticks and some noodles. This is because it is Chinese New Year on Friday, and although we don't celebrate it over here, we thought we would have a go at a couple of related activities. As you can see by these photos, each child persevered with their chopstick-handling technique and all successfully managed to find their best way to get the noodles to their destination!



Rowans have been creative this half term

Art: Weaving

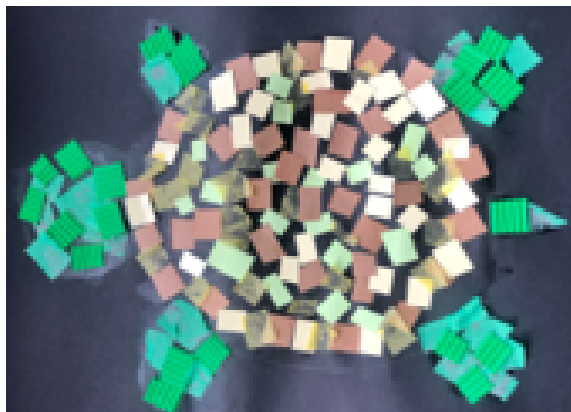


Geography: 3D Maps of Whitwell



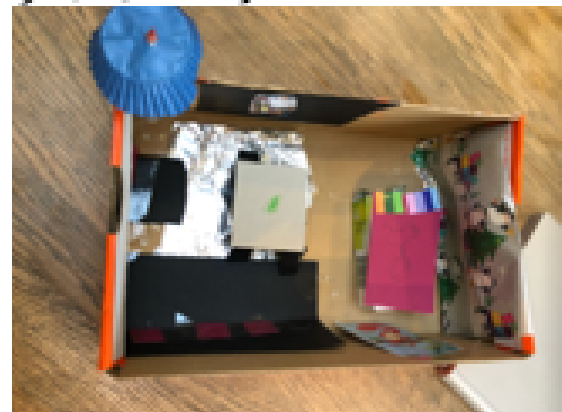
Matthew

Art: Mosaic Turtles



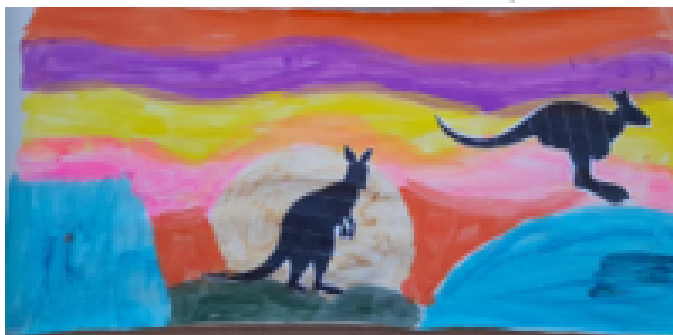
Isabelle

Geography: Underground homes in Australia



Thomas

Art: Australian Landscapes



Hayden and Gabriel

Science: Shadow Puppets



Joshua

PSHCE: What do dogs need?



Fergus

Computing: Little Red Riding Hood



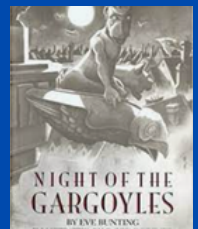
Theo

Superb Silver Birches

In Art, Silver Birches have been making mosaics online using Roman, Celtic and Greek influences. In PSHE, pupils have been designing a coat of arms to represent the different communities we belong to.



Oaks as Authors



This term, Oaks class have explored the text 'Night of the Gargoyles' by Eve Bunting. We really enjoyed this text and have written our own versions based on the story, focusing on building suspense and atmosphere. Here are some of their final pieces.

The Night of the Gargoyles

As the watchman is walking peacefully across the stone cold path, he feels like he is being followed. Like he is being hunted and won't escape. His trembling body tells him to move quicker and so he did. This average motion turned into a speedy rocket. When he got more nervous, he ran faster. This nervous adrenalin was affecting every part of his body. He was trembling with fear that he could not control. The watchman could hear the unknown footsteps stop as he did. Something or someone was there. He tried to turn around but as soon as he turned around he was dragged to the ground by a..... gargoyle!!

After a while struggling to get out, the horrible, mean critter whispered into his ear, 'GOT YOU!' The watchman tried to get away. As much as the gargoyle tried to keep his prey the watchman escaped from the lair of the gargoyle. He ran as fast as he could to the guards office! He was now haunted by this moment and will be for the rest of his life...

When the watchman reached the guards office he spurted out all the unbelievable information to the guard...

"Have you gone crazy, gargoyles aren't real! Come here. Sit down, you are probably just drunk," said the guard while laughing.

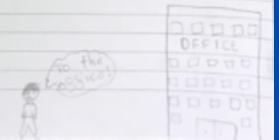
"No," snapped the watchman, "I am not drunk, I will prove it to you that gargoyles are real."

"Well I will look forward to staring at an real gargoyle for the rest of my life," said the guard sarcastically. Then he dismissed the watchman with a small gesture towards the door.

The watchman walked away, back home. He was wondering whether he was just seeing things but he wasn't going to be embarrassed in front of the guard....

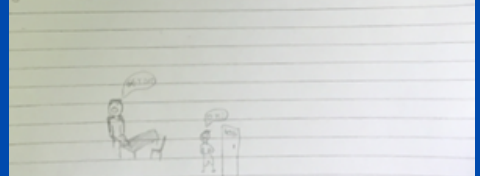
Night of the gargoyles
Determined to confront the gargoyles, the watchman steps into the now abandoned city street. The dim street lights are flickering like candles. It is dark and spooky. He can feel a shiver go down his spine. He walks over the narrow bridge towards the gargoyle yard as he approaches it the watchman can hear dead leaves crumpling under his feet. The howling wind sounds like deadly warnings calling to the moon. He pulls his coat around him tightly as he feels the cold wind go through him. The high-pitched screeching of the birds is almost deafening. Among all this noise the watchman can also hear horrifying growling and moaning of the gargoyles.

In the shadow of the grim stone groves the gargoyles crawl and creep around and over the dead flowers towards the petrified watchman. They creepily circle around him. Whispering. Howling. Creaking through the air. He winces as one swoop over his head, taunting him. They pierce him with their cold and unblinking eyes. The watchman falls to his knees and then staggers to his feet desperately trying to get away from the gargoyles. He runs towards the office...



The old man gradually runs towards the office. He approaches the office he slows down trying to act as if everything's normal. Even though he is scared he knows he needs to tell his boss about the gargoyles. As he walks through the gold door with the word 'boss' on it the watchman can feel his heart beat quickening.

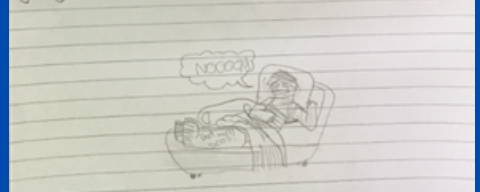
The watchman stutters and stammers tripping over his own words. His boss glares at him and impatiently shouts, "Well, get about that!" The watchman builds up all the courage inside of him and whispers, "but I know where to begin... the gargoyles, they come to life at night." "GET OUT OF YOUR MIND!!!" shouts the boss. "But sir," the watchman pleaded. "GET OUT!!" the boss yelled. The watchman gets up and leaves but once he's gone the boss whispers to him self, "what did I..."



As the watchman walks home he thinks about quitting his job before he gets fired. He feels embarrassed, humiliated and lonely. He is wondering if he has imagined it all.... and then out of the blue, he hears the chanting of the many echo voices. "YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD HIM!"

The watchman is sure that his mind is playing tricks on him or is this a curse? Still scared, he bolts home. Carelessly, he steps into the road without looking. An oncoming bike brings him to the ground.

Luckily he doesn't die. But perhaps that was the curse and he shouldn't have spoken about the gargoyles, for he will never walk again.



Half term activities

35 Things to do away from your screen

Family Time

- Cook an evening meal for your family
- Play a boardgame
- Camp out in the garden with toasted marshmallows & hot chocolate
- Do some Geocaching whilst out on a walk
- Speak to your grandparents or other extended family
- Make homemade ice cream
- Send someone an unexpected gift in the post

- Learn a magic trick
- Bake some bread
- Write a letter
- Create a lockdown collage & add one thing each day to it
- Create your own monogram
- Clear out a cupboard & see if you can raise money for a charity / the NHS
- Play an instrument

Solo Time

- Read a book
- Sleep under the stars
- Do a doodle
- Stretch / do some Yoga every day
- Write a short story ... 500 words or less
- Start and finish a puzzle
- Create a piece of origami

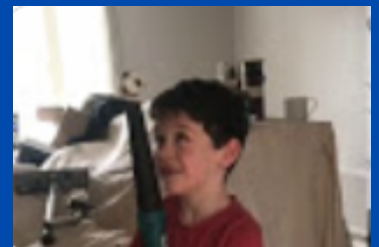
Quiet Time

- Go on a bike ride
- Run 5K
- Play a ball game with a member of your family
- Walk a half marathon
- Walk - Jog - Run - alternate between each for every lamppost in your village
- Make a homemade energy bar
- Go for a walk

Fitness Time

Discovery Time

- Look at old photos & make an album
- Find an interesting local landmark that you have not visited & walk / bike to it
- Do some astronomy ... or just sit out and enjoy the night sky
- Walk to local cemetery and spend time reading the headstones ... you will learn a lot
- Build a bird feeder & discover what birds come into your garden
- Plan a social distanced walk with a friend
- Map out your family tree just by learning about if from your parents & grandparents



Suneet and Henry have already tried some of these ideas. Why not give it a go and share your activities in our Community Classroom?



Messages from staff

Well done to you all!
- Mrs Constable

I would like to say how much I miss everyone and how lovely it is to see some of you around the village when I'm on my walks. I Look forward to being back in school as soon as I can.
- Mrs M Smith (Willows)

I have been extremely impressed with how everyone has adapted so quickly to the new way of teaching and learning we have experienced this term. I have seen some excellent work across all the subjects and classes. Some of the volcanoes the Silver Birches made look very realistic and slightly terrifying! There have also been some excellent mosaics created using the internet! - Mr Gallimore

Hello SPW,
I hope you're all keeping safe and well. Just wanted to say a massive **WELL DONE** to you all this half term. I know it's been hard but you've all done amazingly well and shown how adaptable and resilient you can be. I'm so proud of you all. I hope you and your families have a lovely and relaxing half term and I look forward to seeing you all very soon. - Mrs Jeffs

Well done everyone on a fantastic half term! You have shown yourselves to be brilliant, resilient learners and, even though it has been very strange being in school without you all, it has been great seeing all your achievements at home. A special mention to the Oaks: we love how much effort you have all put into everything we've asked you to do. Be proud of yourselves. Enjoy your time off. - Mrs Guy

I have been absolutely amazed with all the wonderful work you have all produced over this half term. Your resilience and efforts have been remarkable. You should all be incredibly proud of what you have achieved, we are incredibly proud of you all. - Mrs Smith (Oaks)

**Dear Rowans,
You have been amazing this past half term. Not only has the work you've sent me been brilliant, but you have remained enthusiastic right the way through. The children in the classroom have also shown great resilience and have completed some excellent work. I hope you have a good rest next week and you're ready to learn after the holidays. See you then! Best wishes, Miss Denny**

I am so proud of my Willows who have been learning online for weeks now. The highlight of my day is seeing all their happy faces pop up every day on my screen! - Mrs Foster

Governors Update

Well done everyone, for making it to the end of another half term!

Last week I 'attended' the Spring term meeting between Mrs Adshead and our school's LEA advisor and received a copy of his report yesterday. The aim of his visit was to review and evaluate our school's remote learning provision. Like me, he was very impressed by the way our families and the school have ensured that all children have access to an individual device to engage with remote learning.

He also liked the communication from the school, via emails, the website, and virtual coffee mornings; supporting families to access Google Classroom and also reassuring them that they can adapt the school's timetable, as stressed children (with stressed parents!) won't learn anything as well as they could.

We talked about what the staff are learning from this period that they will use to improve our school in the future. For example, Mrs Adshead talked about further developing the use of Google Classroom, like saving videos of lessons so that children can go over tricky lessons or concepts again if they need to. Teachers have had lots of discussions with children about how they find such a different way of learning – and reflecting on this is showing the teachers new ways to support children when they are all back in the classroom.

I know everybody wants all the children to be back in school, but while infections remain at such high levels, well done to everyone (staff, families and especially, children) for doing the best you can for so long.

Anne Reid – Chair of Governors