



Thought of the Week

You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

A message from our Executive Headteacher

Dear Parent and Carers,

My message this week is one of reflection. We have many wonderful things we have achieved, shared, seen and experienced. Take a moment, just a few minutes, to think about all the things for which you are grateful.

Although the first half term of 2021 has been challenging and the demands on parents / carers, children and schools have been unprecedented. I am so thankful for how we have all been adapting to learning in a virtual setting. I am so proud of how our school community has risen to this challenge and how, together, we have worked to meet the needs of our children and community. Thank you to parents / carers, pupils and teachers alike for your dedication, hard work and support. I encourage all our families to take the half term to rest and reconnect. Spend time together without the pressures of home learning. Enjoy a good book, cook as a family, play board games or simply talk and share stories. Most of all, take care, stay well and keep safe.

The government has advised that a review of the roadmap out of lockdown will be published the week commencing the 22nd of February and that the reopening of schools is a national priority. We will update you as soon as we received further information.

During the February Half term, if any of our children test positive for COVID on the 13th or 14th February, please advise us at head@dkh.southwark.sch.uk. We have responsibility to track and trace on these two days. From 15th Feb until 21st please call 111 or NHS track and Trace.

Farewell

The children and staff would like to say good luck and farewell to Ms Lavithis, who will be leaving us today.



Ms Lavithis, who has been at DKH since 2008, has made the decision to take her teaching experience into a different field, focusing on community art based programmes. We wish her the very best in all her future endeavours!

8 WAYS TO HELP CHILDREN STRUGGLING DURING LOCKDOWN

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1 Know how to spot the signs

If you notice your child is becoming withdrawn, that there's been a change in sleeping or eating habits, if they seem to lack confidence or get upset, it might be a sign they're struggling.


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2 Talk to your child

If you spot signs your child might be struggling, it's important to talk to them. Keep talking and trying to communicate in any way you can - hugging, listening to them, texting them.


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3 Create structure and routine

Try introducing a rota or loose timetable that includes fun things you're doing during the week. This can help to create a feeling of stability, which can alleviate anxiety.


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4 Give children a sense of control through information

Look online with your children to find useful information and resources that help children feel they have control.



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5 Keep children learning

Using fun and creative ways at home to learn alongside continued access to educational opportunities will support your children's development.


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6 Limit screen time and mix up activities

As most socialising moves online, it's important to have conversations on how an increase in screen time can have an impact on everyone's mental health and self-esteem.


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7 Help your child manage stress

If you spot signs your child might be struggling, it's important to talk to them. Keep talking and trying to communicate in any way you can - hugging, listening to them, texting them, etc.


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8 Expressing feelings doesn't have to be face-to-face

Children might find it easier writing their thoughts down, so the whole family could do this and put them in a 'feelings box' and then talk about their good, sad or difficult feelings at the end of the day.





Parent Meeting Links

Please find below links for the Spring Term virtual parent meetings. Please ensure you have pre-booked a meeting time with your child's class teacher.

Nursery Mon, 22 February 2021	Click here to join the Nursery parent meeting
Reception Fri, 12 February 2021	Click here to join the Reception Parent meeting
Cherry Fri, 12 February 2021	Click here to join the Cherry Parent meeting
Willow Mon, 22 February 2021	Click here to join the Willow Parent meeting
Elder Fri, 12 February 2021	Click here to join the Elder Parent meeting
Palm Mon, 22 February 2021	Click here to join the Palm Parent meeting
Beech Mon, 22 February 2021	Click here to join the Beech Parent meeting
Eucalyptus Fri, 12 February 2021	Click here to join the Eucalyptus Parent meeting
Cedar Mon, 22 February 2021	Click here to join the Cedar Parent meeting
Sycamore Fri, 12 February 2021	Click here to join the Sycamore Parent meeting
Rowan Mon, 22 February 2021	Click here to join the Rowan Parent meeting
Hazel Fri, 12 February 2021	Click here to join the Hazel parent meeting
Elm Fri, 12 February 2021	Click here to join the Elm Parent meeting
Maple Mon, 22 February 2021	Click here to join the Maple Parent Meeting

Star of the Week!



We would like to recognise the children who have been great examples of our school values and have shown true commitment to their learning, either in school or at home. Well done!

Nursery	Ferhot , for a fantastic retelling of the <i>Three Billy Goat's Gruff</i> using different voices for the characters. Well done!
Reception	Morolake , for being a maths whizz this week, making equal groups and adding them together to find a total.
Cherry	James , for his enthusiasm about learning and trying really hard with his PSED focus.
Willow	Fahiz , for his great effort and attitude to learning!
Elder	Mohamed , for showing an excellent attitude to his home learning and making some great contributions in our meetings.
Palm	Enzo , for great contributions to discussions about being safe on-line.
Beech	Caroline , for always helping both peers and adults in the classroom.
Eucalyptus	Illy , for being an outstanding home learner, with great engagement and the work. Well done!
Cedar	Sireen , for always being ready in the morning to share her fantastic learning from home.
Sycamore	Angel A , for always setting a positive example with her behaviour and commitment to learning.
Rowan	Theo , for working hard, participating well and for creating a fantastic puppet!
Hazel	Princess , for her consistency in home learning and online work.
Elm	Dariell , for his engagement in our group sessions and for his hard work in his report writing.
Maple	Danyal , for his brilliant application of percentages to problem solving.

Dates for the Diary

15.02.2021	Half Term Begins
22.02.2021	Children return to remote learning
22.02.2021	Virtual Parent Meetings
04.03.2021	World Book Day
08.03.2021	International Women's Day
15.03.2021	International Day of Maths



Express Yourself

We hope you enjoyed last week's creative activities in support of Children's Mental Health Week. Children's mental health, particularly during these challenging times, is of great importance. Here are some new, a fun ways for the whole family to express themselves. Try one or try them all. Just a few minutes can do wonders to support wellbeing and mental health.



<p>7</p> <p>Draw a picture with your eyes closed. How does it feel to be free to draw anything from your imagination</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Draw yourself as a superhero. What is your super power? How does it feel being a superhero?</p>	<p>9</p> <p>What scares you? Draw your biggest fear!</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Draw some important memories for you!</p>	<p>11</p> <p>What does your anger look like? Draw your anger</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Draw something you are thankful for today</p>
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Concerns continue to be expressed by parents, residents, staff and governors about parking outside school, during drop off and pick up times. We are increasingly concerned about child safety and the needs of our local residents.

We appeal to parents and cares to ensure they please park legally and not in private areas as this has implications for the school.

Please do not park on the pavement. This causes an obstruction and makes it very difficult for pedestrians, particularly the elderly and people with young children and pushchairs to use pavements safely.

Please do not park over people's driveways, in residents' driveways without permission or resident parking areas. This is obviously very unfair on the residents, inconsiderate and creates conflict.

Maintaining a good relationship with our neighbours is important, as they are also a part of the school community. When these relationships break down and result in conflict, it puts our children and our school in a very unpleasant and compromising position.

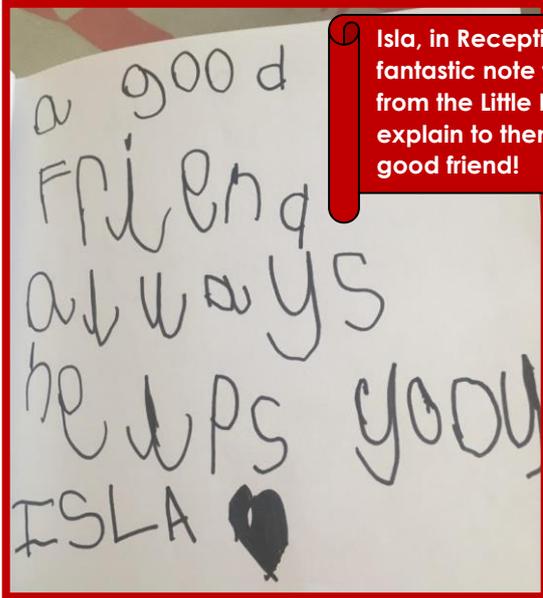
We know these problems are caused by a minority of parents / carers. To those of you who have never parked inconsiderately, we are sorry you have to receive yet another communication of this nature. We would prefer never to have to write in these terms again. Can we ask you to help us to tackle the problem by gently and politely spreading our message?

Inconsiderate parking, even if only once or twice, results in the school having to spend considerable time meeting with the local police and responding to emails from local residents expressing frustration and dissatisfaction with the parking of our parents / carers. This affects the reputation of our school and takes time and resources away from what we want to be doing - providing the very best education for your children.

So PLEASE, just give yourself a few extra minutes to park carefully and considerately and walk a bit further if necessary. Please also pass this information on to any other adults who drop off / collect your child(ren) from school.

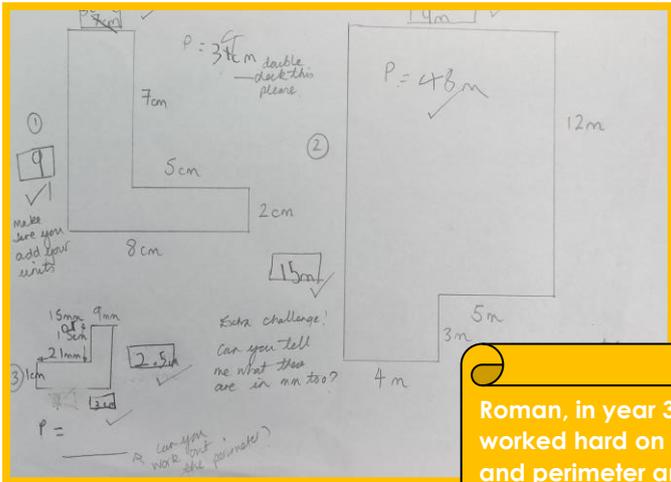
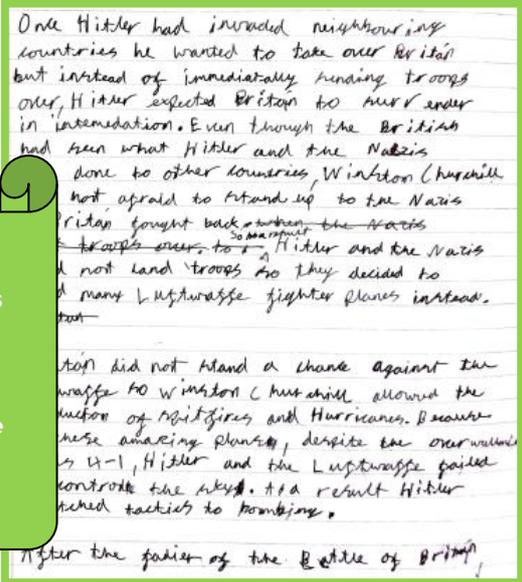
Many thanks for your help in this matter.

Look at some of the wonderful work our children have been doing at home!



Isla, in Reception, has written a fantastic note to the characters from the Little Red Hen story to explain to them how to be a good friend!

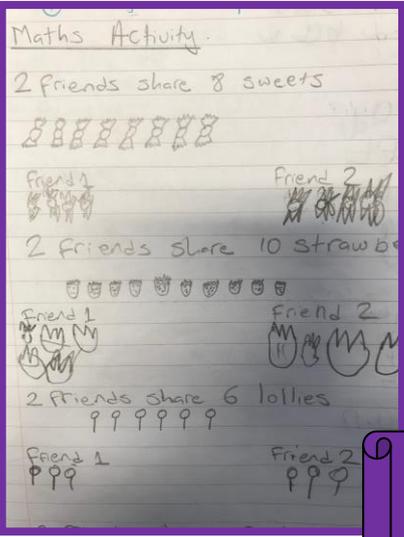
Alfie, in year 6, has used the features of chronological report writing effectively in his work on WW2 this term. This is just one page of his three-page report! His teacher is particularly impressed that he has taken on feedback regarding headings and subheadings. Great job!



Roman, in year 3, has worked hard on length and perimeter and can work out perimeters of shapes using mixed units of measurement. Well done!



Kiera, in reception, headed outside to practise writing her sound of the week /igh/ in the snow! Great work Kiera!



Samad, in year 1, created some brilliant pictorial representations to show his understanding of division. Fantastic work!

Austin, in year 1, used a part-whole model to complete addition equations. Very impressive!

