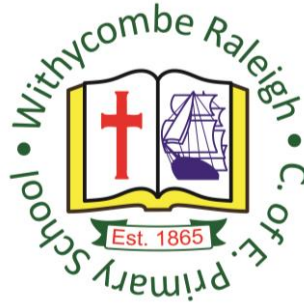


Weekly School News Roundup

**Withycombe Raleigh
C of E Primary School**

Date: 15/1/2021



Mrs Emma Jones, Headteacher
Withycombe Village Road
Exmouth, Devon, EX8 3BA

Please ring us on: (01395) 263397
email: admin@wrpschool.org
website: wrpschool.org

News from your Headteacher

I don't know if anyone else feels like I do but I am trying to avoid watching the news at the moment. With the media full of such sad stories and worrying statistics, it is easy for us all to become anxious about what the next few weeks might be like. In the midst of all that we have going on, the children are demonstrating such great resilience and strength whether they are working remotely at home or coming into school. I am so impressed and uplifted when seeing what the children have achieved in their remote learning and in school...it definitely brightens my day.

For those of you at home, it must be strange to be back teaching your children once again. You are all in our thoughts and we hope that you are managing to stay safe and healthy. We understand that some of you may be struggling with a whole host of things at home. Please do not 'suffer in silence'! There are lots of ways we can continue to support families during this lockdown period. If we cannot help as a school then we probably have the contact details of someone who can help! If you are experiencing difficulties emotionally or financially, please do not hesitate to contact us. We have had several queries from our school community from people who wish to help families. Our Families Fund is still open for those wishing to make a donation. We also have a collection station for Exmouth Community Larder in school; alternatively, donations to the Larder can be made in most of our local supermarkets.

As you are aware, school is officially 'closed' but it certainly doesn't feel like that! We have all classes open and all staff are in school working their normal hours. It is extremely challenging for staff to juggle the demands of the school day as well as managing remote learning. Please understand that teachers will not be able to respond to everything that is posted online and they may not be able to respond to queries immediately either.

If your child is eligible for a place in school, please be mindful of the communication from the Government and the 'spirit of lockdown' that

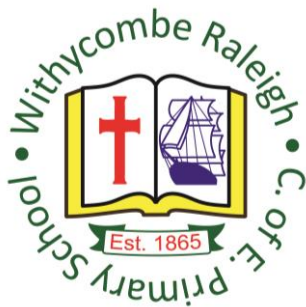
'Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.'

This means that if you are working at home, please keep your child at home rather than sending them to school. It is certainly true that the fewer the children making the journey to and attending school, the lower is the risk that the virus can spread to our families and through our community. We would very much appreciate everyone's support with this so we can keep staff and children in school as safe as possible and hopefully end this current lockdown sooner rather than later.

I must also point out that spaces in bubbles are limited. Greater numbers of children create issues around social distancing and increase the risks of infection when this cannot be achieved. When booking places please be aware that for some children in some class bubbles we may not be able to guarantee a place on all the days requested.

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Learning at home

We love to see and hear about the children's learning at home and we hope that you are all able to access the remote learning that is being provided each day. Teachers are monitoring what the children are doing and will be making contact with families where there has been no remote learning completed. The Government has advised schools that the minimum amount of learning each day should be 3 hours for children in KS1 and 4 hours for KS2. At Withycombe, we understand that this expectation will be too much for many children and therefore suggest that families do what they can, when they can. The most important thing is that children are feeling safe and secure during these difficult times. While we would encourage you to engage in remote learning, please don't let it become a battle.

You're not expected to become teachers and your children aren't expected to learn as they do in school. Simply **providing your children with some structure** at home will help them to adapt.

Experiment in the first week, then **take stock**. What's working and what isn't? Ask your children, involve them too.

Take care of your own health and wellbeing. This will be new for your entire household, so give it time to settle. Take a look at some of the links on our website about looking after your emotional well-being.

Keep to a timetable wherever possible

Create and stick to a routine if you can. This is what children are used to. For example, eat breakfast at the same time and make sure the children are dressed before starting the 'school' day – avoid staying in pyjamas!

Involve your children in setting the timetable where possible. It's a great opportunity for them to manage their own time better and it'll give them ownership.

Designate a working space if possible, and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over.

Stick the timetable up on the wall so everyone knows what they should be doing when, and tick activities off throughout the day.

Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, to separate school life and home life.

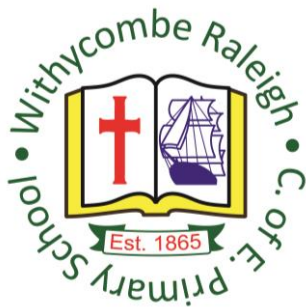
Make time for exercise and breaks throughout the day

Add some creative time or watch a dance video from [Go Noodle](https://www.go-noodle.com/) to get the heart -rate going.

If you have a **garden, use it regularly**. If you don't, try to get out **once a day** as permitted by the government

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Read for pleasure. Share stories and books.

Get your children to **write in a diary what they did each day** – this can be a clear sign that the 'school' day has ended.

Other activities to keep children engaged throughout the day

Make time for other activities.

Get your children to **write postcards** to their grandparents or to pen pals.

Plant some seeds in pots or in the garden. You could try your hand at growing some vegetables.

Learn a new skill: try knitting, cross stitch, juggling or hula hooping. Practice playing a musical instrument or painting.

Ask **grandparents to listen to your children read** on FaceTime (or ask grandparents to read to younger children).

Give the children chores to do so they feel more responsible for the daily routine at home.

Ask them to **help you cook** and bake.

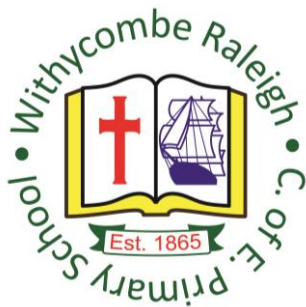
Please remember that there are many ways you can contact school staff if you have any queries. You can email your child's class teacher directly using the class email account; alternatively, you can email admin@wrpschool.org or enquiries@wrpschool.org or call us on 01395 266397

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs. E Jones

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Collective Worship

This week we heard about a charity called 'Hope4Kibera'. The charity was set up in 2019 by a group in Devon. Kibera is an urban slum on the edge of Nairobi, Kenya. It is home to 800,000 people living in dire poverty. 3m square tin shacks are stacked together on a hillside of rubbish and families are lucky to get 1 meal a day. Linda Collins from Hope4Kibera joined our Collective Worship on Monday and told us all about ways we could help the families of Kibera. Over the next few weeks we will be looking at ways we can support this charity. Further details will be sent in the coming weeks.

Safeguarding

Due to a significant increase in its use, Internet safety has become a real concern during this lockdown period, with many children spending time alone in their rooms, online.

Clearly there are many positives for children in using the internet including: engaging in their remote learning, playing games and communicating with and socialising with their friends.

It is however incredibly important to remember that threats also exist for children while they are online - particularly on social media sites and in new online environments you or your child may not be familiar with.

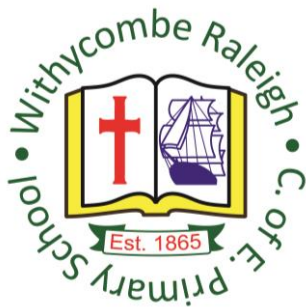
As with most potential online dangers, the problems can start if your child doesn't look after their personal information properly. We would therefore like you to be aware of the risks that children face:

- cyberbullying (bullying using digital technology)
- invasion of privacy
- identity theft
- your child seeing offensive images and messages
- the presence of strangers who may be there to 'groom' children

There are many tips which you and your children can take in order to improve online safety – including tips from Childline on the link below.

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<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>

We would also like to offer the following thoughts which will help to keep your child safe when carrying out their remote learning

- 1) Please take an active interest in your child's learning – engaging with them and supporting them when they need a hand.
- 2) It is always sensible to monitor your child's communication and online activity - encouraging them to be polite and not to post or send any negative comments.
- 3) Make sure you implement safety controls and privacy restrictions on APPs and software.
- 4) We would also recommend that your learning device is in a public place rather than behind a closed bedroom door.

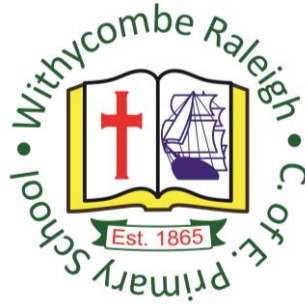
Furthermore, please continue to monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health – please break up the day and move away from the screen, doing something physical like getting out for a walk or a fun activity like cooking!

Sports & Achievements

We love to hear about your children's sporting and other achievements. If you have anything to share, please email enquiries@wrpschool.org with your news and a photo if possible. We will endeavor to include as many of your photos as possible each week.

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Year Group News



As part of their Literacy unit, Year 1 have made gingerbread men in class.

Barn Owl Class kindly made and decorated gingerbread versions of Mr Smith, Mrs Jones and Mrs Wheeler...can you tell who is who?



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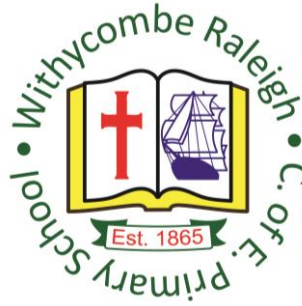
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Year 5 looked at the work of Joan Miro.
They created patterns based on his work.



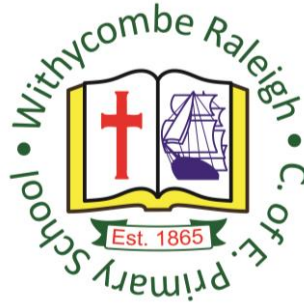
Year 6 have been creating some artwork
using collaging.



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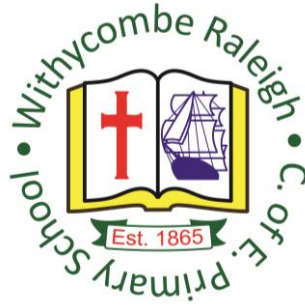


At Nature School this week Bumble
Bee Class made bird feeders from
Cheerios and apples!

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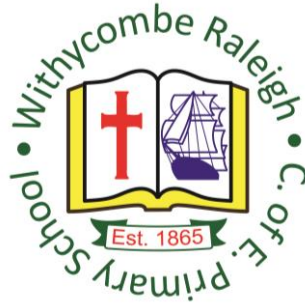
Hedgehog Class visited Nature School to
create story settings as part of their
literacy unit.

They were challenged to use adjectives in
their writing.

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Kade made a counting stick to help him
with Maths.

Willow Bubble dissected Stone Age poo!