

Dear Owls

Hope you are well and that you and your families had some fun times at half-term.

Thank you for sending me examples of your work and telling me what you have been doing by email since March. It cheers me up to hear how you are doing. If you have not been in touch yet, this is my email: mkilpatrick@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk

Please keep doing some **Maths** and **English** every “school” day using your choice of BBC Bitesize daily lessons, National Oak Academy or Hamilton home learning.

I have allocated the Summer Term maths games to you on your Active Learn account. Some of you have played lots of games – well done - others have played hardly any. If you need me to reset your password, please email me.

Please practise some of those **spellings** from the lists that I gave you in March. Write them out on cards so you can play games with them: snap, pairs, bingo or use them in sentences, messages, emails to me or letters to someone in your family.

Please **read** daily. If you have finished all your books, then email me to arrange a time for you to drop them back to school and to collect some more books from me.

Here are some **reading activities** that you could do with a book you have enjoyed: Draw a new cover. Write a new blurb. Explain the story in 50 words. Choose an incident and write about it from one character’s point of view. Rewrite the ending of the story. Draw a family tree or a cast of characters. Explain which character is most like you and why. Write a letter to the main character offering advice. Act out a scene from the story.

Some of you might enjoy listening to stories on BBC Sounds or on Audible.

There is a new online book packed with stories by many authors which you could read for free.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/>

I really like the following activities. Once you have got the information or idea from these websites you will have some fun activities to do using things you have at home.

This link takes you to the first 9 weeks of “Starters for Stem” with loads of quick but thought-provoking **Science, DT and Maths activities**:

[Starters for STEM](#)

I have previously mentioned the National Galleries of Scotland’s “Our **Creative Curriculum**”. This link takes you to the most recent activities and if you scroll down the page you will find all the earlier weeks. The activities are varied, interesting and achievable at home.

[Our Creative Curriculum](#)

You could do a **geography**-focused scavenger hunt at home.

Can you find food, products, clothes or shoes around your home which come from different parts of the world? Where were they grown, made or produced?

Where in the world? Can you find those places on a map? Is that country near the Equator, in the Northern Hemisphere or Southern Hemisphere? In which continent?

How do you think the products reached the UK? Did they travel by plane, by land or by sea?

Science – Plants

I have been doing the same walk around the fields near my home every day over the last 10 weeks, so I have been noticing how the plants have changed over that time.

This morning I was thinking about plants and why their leaves are so many different sizes, shapes and textures. I am going to see how many different leaves I can spot and to record them with a drawing.

You could do this too on your walks, drawing or taking a photo of each one. You could take a ruler with you to measure, or record the size using your hand to show the scale.

Some of the shapes and textures of the leaves must protect the plants from animals who might eat them all up. I spotted 2 different plants today with vicious spikey shaped leaves. Other leaves are shiny or smooth or furry or rough or bumpy.

The plants you find might have colourful flowers to attract pollinating insects, or flowers which produce seeds which spread in the wind.

Your plants might not remain there all summer so dates when you spotted them could be useful. The plants might change size, or the flowers might turn into fruit or seed heads.

Have a look at where the plant is growing – this is its habitat – e.g. on the ground by a path, in a field, a hedge, a wood or by water.

How much light does it get? Remember plants make their own food in their leaves using sunlight.

Have a think about the animals (insects, birds or mammals) which might eat that plant. Remember most food chains start with green plants.

After you record the plants you could try to find out their names. Can you use plant books, parents, grandparents, or the internet to help you to find out plant names?

Then organise what you have found out in an interesting way e.g. as a poster, a mind map, a concertina book, a power point, a board game or a card game.

Next can you invent your own plant using all your knowledge and imagination?

Where does it live? Be specific e.g. in rock crevices on a cliff in a dry hot desert.

Think how does your invented plant get enough sunlight? How does it get enough water?

How does it protect itself from animal predators? What size is it?

What shapes and textures are its leaves?

How does it attract insects e.g. bees, butterflies and moths to pollinate its flowers? What colour flowers does it have? What does it smell like?

Have fun with this. I would love to see which real plants you find and the amazing plants you invent.

Hope to see you soon.

Best wishes

Miss Kilpatrick