

# Principal's Newsletter April/May 2020



When I wrote our last newsletter just over a month ago I could not have imagined where we'd be today. I've been teaching and working in schools for nearly 30 years and have only known school close on very rare occasions due to heavy snow. I feel very fortunate to be at Ravenfield Primary Academy during these uncertain times as the support we've had from you, as our primary community and colleagues in the trust has helped us to navigate our way through it as a real team. All of us, at school, have been so impressed by the learning and experiences that our children have had at home and thank you so much for sharing. I also want to pay tribute to our staff team who has had to adapt the way that they teach in order to support families at home. They have worked so hard and I know they really appreciate the positive feedback that they are getting.

## Purple Mash

Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone for engaging with our online learning resource 'Purple Mash'. In the middle of March it looked like schools were heading for closure so we had to put an online system in place pretty quickly. We researched online learning platforms and chose Purple Mash, thank you for working with us as we all get used to using it.

## Working at Home

We recognise that it can be difficult to juggle adults in the home 'Working from Home' with children and the demands of home learning. Often families have limited access to computers and these have to be used by the adults or other children. We understand this and if there is anything we can do to support such as additional learning packs etc. please let us know. We are keen to support wellbeing for the whole family and so we will not put pressure on in terms of the amount of learning any child does. All of your home experiences are valuable ones.

## Twitter

**We've just got over 130 followers!**

@RPAcademy1 Let's get some more

Follow us! (please)



## Keep Safe and Carry on!

We are really missing all the pupils at Ravenfield Primary Academy really hope you are staying safe and well in these unusual times. We have put together a little message for you.

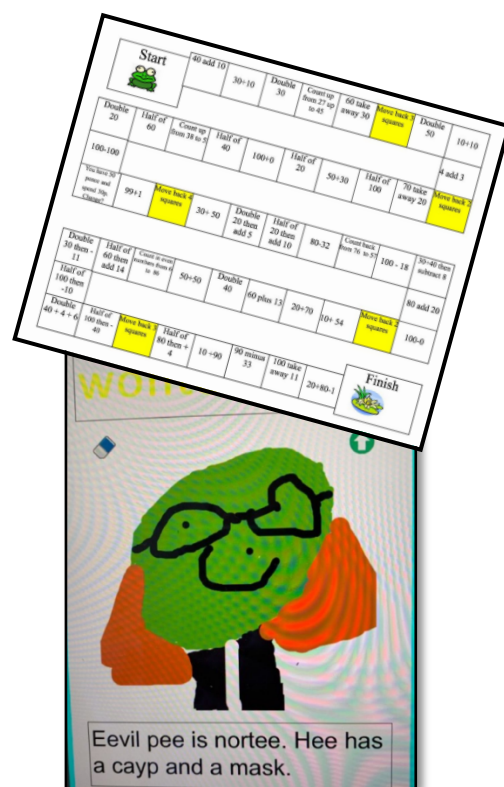
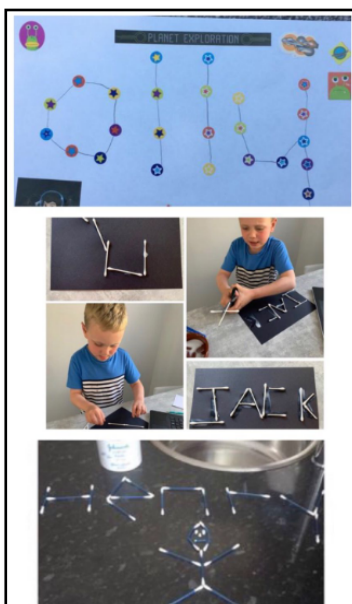
<https://youtu.be/orXFgbQCVCQ>



Chocolate Cake



My favourite!



## Resources for talking about Covid-19 with your child

There are lots of resources out there to support with this. Axel Scheffler and Julia Donaldson's coronavirus cartoons are a good starting point for discussions.

This is a link to an article in The Guardian that shows some familiar characters dealing with some of the situations that Coronavirus has thrown up for all of us.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/gallery/2020/apr/04/gruffalo-axel-scheffler-and-julia-donaldsons-coronavirus-cartoons>

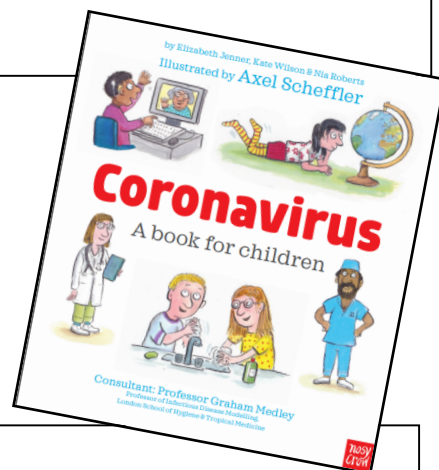
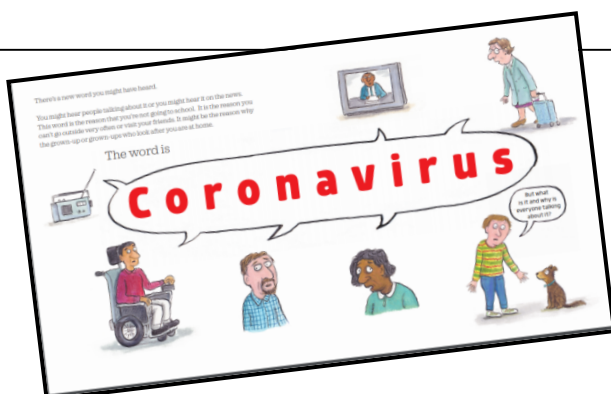
There is also an electronic book from the same team:

The book answers key questions in simple language appropriate for 5 to 9 year olds:

- What is the coronavirus?
- How do you catch the coronavirus?
- What happens if you catch the coronavirus?
- Why are people worried about catching the coronavirus?
- Is there a cure for the coronavirus?
- Why are some places we normally go to closed?
- What can I do to help?
- What's going to happen next?

It is totally free to download here [https://nosycrowcoronavirus.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Coronavirus\\_ABookForChildren.pdf](https://nosycrowcoronavirus.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Coronavirus_ABookForChildren.pdf)

However, it is suggested, at the back of the book, that families might make a donation to help our health service if they find the book useful: <https://www.nhscharitiestogether.co.uk/>.



Amazing home learning!

I have seen some amazing learning that's been put on Dojo. Well done to everyone who is taking part

F2 – Well done to all the pupils who took part in researching where different food items come from. I hope you have found lots of information and can teach me a few things when I next see you

Y1 – It looks like you have learnt so much about constellations, did you all see the meteor shower this week?

Y2 – You've been reading The Tale of Ostrich and a very long neck, what a wonderful book. The story maps you have made are excellent keep up the good work!

Y3 - Wow the math's board games you have created look great! Have you enjoyed making them?

Y4 – Thank you to Miss Winter for teaching us a new “sign of the day” videos. We will all be experts once we return to school.

Y5 – I can see you have been practicing your Spanish; can you now put your knowledge to the test and teach your family at home?

Y6 – You have started writing your own newspaper articles, I can't wait to see them completed and read them all!