



RIVERBRIDGE REVIEW

Spring Term

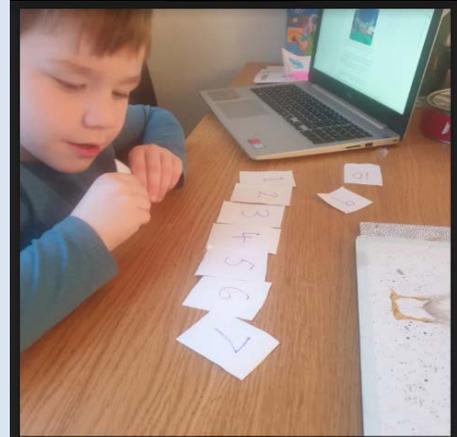
Week 1

8th January 2021

My plan was to start this Review with the phrase 'Happy New Year'.

In many ways the year has started in a less happy way than we would have all liked.

There was a lot of careful planning put in place over the weekend and we had a degree of confidence in how these plans would work moving forward. The details of this was shared with you in the letter sent out on Monday but in addition to this there were countless rotas, updates to the school's risk assessment and various new refined processes put in place.



Blended Learning-at home and...

This was unlike any start of term I have experienced and I can say with conviction that the team at Riverbridge rose, as they always do, to meet the many challenges they were facing. I thank them all and particularly Mrs Williams in the school office for her dedication to the school whatever the hour!

The challenge we then faced on Monday was to tear up most of these plans and put new ones in their place. Despite the obvious frustration, we used the day of the school closure on Tuesday wisely.



Learning at school.

Today is now the third day of the lockdown and we continue to monitor the provision, reflect on it and adapt as needed. The children have been their usual flexible selves and have adapted to Google Classroom well. I have noticed a lot of really positive interaction and engagement and we will continue to support the children fully with this home learning offer.

I am mindful that things are not necessarily going to run smoothly all the time and I appreciate the patience parents have shown here. Thank you once again for your support in these difficult times.

Why not follow the link to see what learning is available, it might be fun to enrol as a family and learn something new during lockdown.

<https://mailchi.mp/7ff45a59ac84/family-learning-parent-bulletin-732968>

Google Classroom

It has been great to see the high level of activity on Google Classroom this week and that the majority of technical issues have been ironed out successfully. There are a couple of recurring questions which we thought would be useful to share the answer to.

One is around logging in to Google Classroom on different devices. When working on a desktop or laptop a web browser is the best platform to use following www.classroom.google.com.

If using a tablet or mobile device Google Classroom will work better using the Google Classroom app and the Docs app will also need downloading in order for any docs to be edited.

The second question is around submitting learning to your child's class teacher. We really enjoy seeing how you have been completing your learning. Attached to the newsletter is a guide to submitting learning in different ways including images, docs and other files.

Google Classroom – things for the school to consider

As mentioned above, we will continue to adapt and improve the provision on Google Classroom. Please understand that staff have a delicate balancing act to perform - ensuring the children in school are taught appropriately whilst also maintaining the provision for those at home. This is going to be a challenge.

In Reception for instance, there are currently three classes of keyworker children and therefore the Reception team are teaching all day whilst also managing the online offer. Patience will be particularly necessary with parents in this year group.

I am aware that there was an announcement from the Education Secretary around the expectations parents should have regarding the on-line offer created by schools. The headlines stated that Ofsted could be called if there are concerns. It is my understanding that all complaints should first have gone through the school's normal complaints procedures. Please do feel free to raise concerns through the school as normal and we will continue to problem solve these as they arise.

Home Learning - Next Steps

We are continuing to reflect on what else we can do to support the home learning offer. Next week, we will be sharing a Google Form with you all to seek your opinions about this aspect of the school's provision. We are also finalising some opportunities for a daily 'catch-up' session using Google Meet. There will be details of this in a letter early next week. This will explain the timings of any sessions and the expectations of them too.

Free School Meals

The Government has announced that schools should continue to support families who receive benefit related free school meals. We are finalising the details of what this will look like and will be forwarding the information to those families concerned as soon as possible. Again, we thank you for your patience here.

PE

Keeping physically active is as important as ever as we all stay safe. Next week there will be lessons planned throughout the week to keep the children moving, these will be shared via Google Classroom. For those children in school they will not need PE kit next week, so full school uniform all week please. Joe Wicks has also reintroduced his morning PE lessons, Monday, Wednesday and Friday every week-we have shared the link on Facebook.

Riverbridge PTA is our school's fundraising community. Everyone's welcome to get involved!



PTA
FRIENDS OF RIVERBRIDGE

Best wishes for 2021

We want to wish all our school community well during the current lockdown – and we're looking forward to better times later in the year. We can't carry on our normal activities but we're thinking of ways to help keep our community connected. For now, you can follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/RiverbridgePrimarySchoolPTA or get in touch with us at pta.riverbridge@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk

Hot Dog Night refunds

For obvious reasons our Hot Dog Nights are postponed until further notice. We will be refunding money to anyone who bought a ticket and your payment should be back with you by the end of next week.

December's 50/50 Club winner

Congratulations to Katie Bowles (Number 21) who was the winner of our December 50/50 Club draw.

Stay connected with us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/groups/RiverbridgePrimarySchoolIPTA
or get in touch with us at
pta.riverbridge@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk

Gold Leaves

Whole School

These gold leaves were the final ones given out in 2020.

We will be reflecting on the way to celebrate the learning choices of the children and be able to share this with the children (and parents) next week.

Watch this space!

Pranav Y

Imogen H

Harry B

Jennifer P

Evie GL

Michael O

Rainbow Awards

Nursery

Nursery children both at home and in school have been embracing their learning this week. Despite the very strange circumstances we have seen some fabulous examples of learning. Next week we will consider how to celebrate individual successes, but for this week you are all 'Rainbow children'!

House Competition

Whole School

There will be a way for us to continue to work as House Teams. Again – this will be shared with the children in due course. I look forward to continuing the competition into 2021.

The points stay the same and are as below:



92.5
points



95
points



82.5
Points

4 Core Skills / 8 Great Values

Whole School



This week we have been focusing on the them New Year, New Goals. I have shared 3 assemblies with the children this week and they have all discussed the different ways we can set goals and how we can keep trying when things get tough.

The assemblies are recorded and can be played as a video. It is my intention for these to be shared with the children each week so that they (and you) have access to them at home as well as at school.

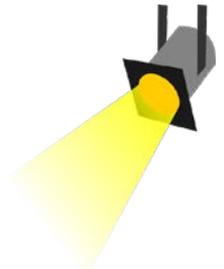
Spotlight on

Whole School

Mental Health and Wellbeing – Wellbeing Apps

Please see the link below for Surrey and Borders Partnership ORCHA's AppFinder site where a range of rated apps to support mental health needs and wellbeing can be found.

<https://sabp.orcha.co.uk/>



Thank you once again, have a great weekend.

Paul Grimwood

Headteacher

Dates for the diary...

Mon 15th – Fri 19th Feb 2021

Spring Half Term

Thurs 1st April End of term for children: 1.20pm KGB, 1.40pm Nursery, 1.30pm PAB

Fri 2nd –Fri 16th April 2021

Easter Holidays

Mon 19th April Children return to school

Mon 3rd May Bank Holiday

Thurs 6th May Potential Polling Day

Mon 31st May- Fri 4th June 2021

Summer Half Term

Fri 16th July End of term for children: 1.20pm KGB, 1.40pm Nursery, 1.30pm PAB

Mon 19th July Inset day 3

Tues 20th July Inset day 4

Wed 21st July Inset day 5

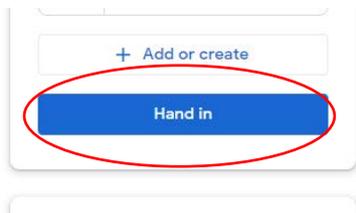
Handing in and Sharing your Learning with your class teacher

Before handing in your learning you will need to click 'view assignment' on the subject/activity you are wanting to complete.

There may be different ways in which you want to hand in your learning which are explained below

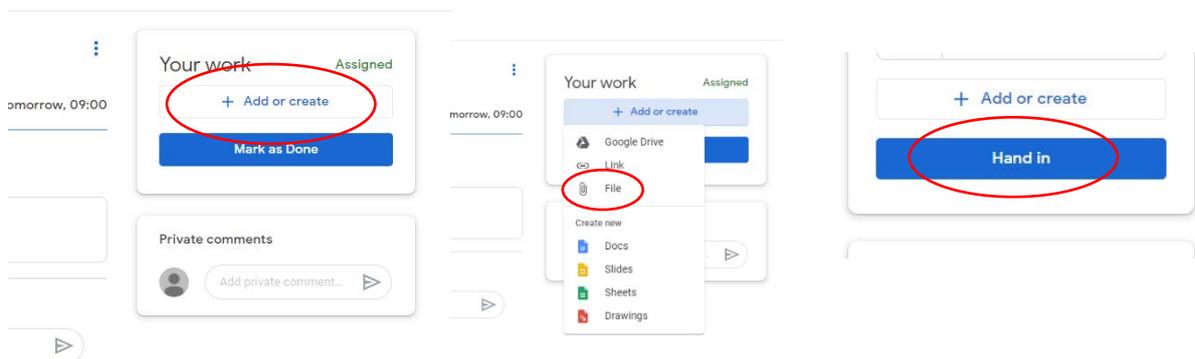
Completing a set template

- This will be a named doc in the assignment with your child's name
- As you complete the document it will save itself
- Once your child has completed the doc, close this and then click the 'Hand in' button which will inform your child's class teacher of completion



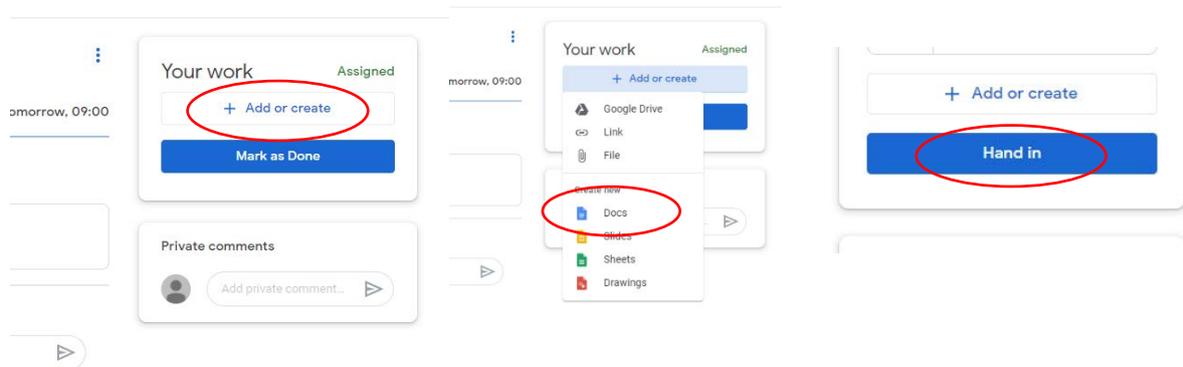
Uploading a picture or file from a device

- Click on 'Add or create'
- Click on 'File'
- Browse for the document/image and select this
- Click 'Hand in'



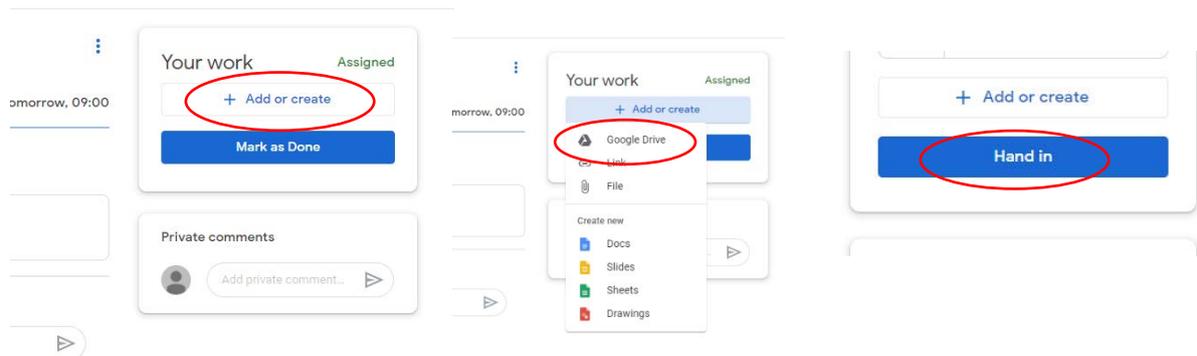
Creating a new document to write in

- Click on 'Add or create'
- Click on 'Docs'
- Name this document in the top left-hand corner
- This will continue to save automatically as you complete this
- Close the document
- Click 'Hand in'



Uploading a file from Google Drive

- Click on 'Add or create'
- Click on 'Google Drive'
- Browse for the document/image and select this
- Click 'Hand in'



How to access Google Classroom from your Xbox or PlayStation

There isn't an app that you can add to a console. Instead, you will need to use the built-in browser that comes ready installed on the console. For Xbox this is Microsoft Edge, for PlayStation it is the 'www' browser.

Xbox

- Go to My Games & Apps
- Select See All
- Select Apps
- Select and Open Microsoft Edge
- Click on the address bar at the top of the screen
- Type in classroom.google.com
- Click on Sign In in the top right hand corner once the page has loaded
- Enter your Lumen email address and password

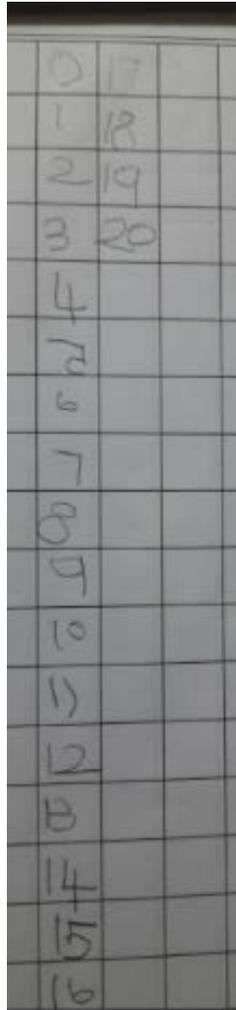
PlayStation

- Go to Library
- Search for 'Internet'
- Open the Internet Browser (the WWW icon)
- Type in classroom.google.com into the address bar
- Click on Sign In in the top right hand corner once the page has loaded
- Enter your Lumen email address and password

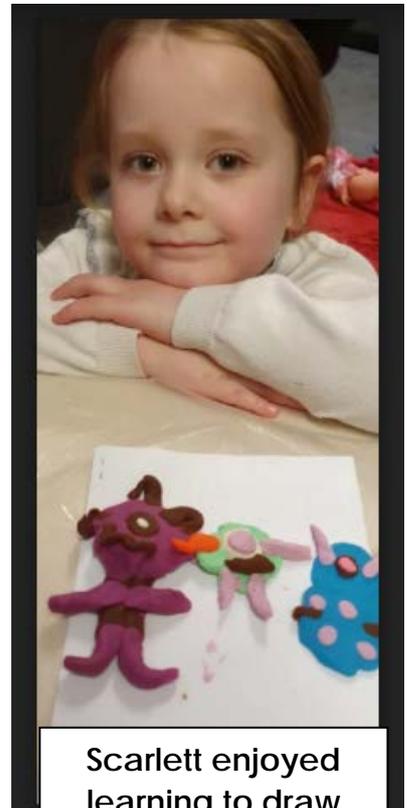
You can navigate around Classroom using your controller but it can be quite time consuming to type in this way. If you can, it is better to plug a keyboard into your console so typing is much quicker.



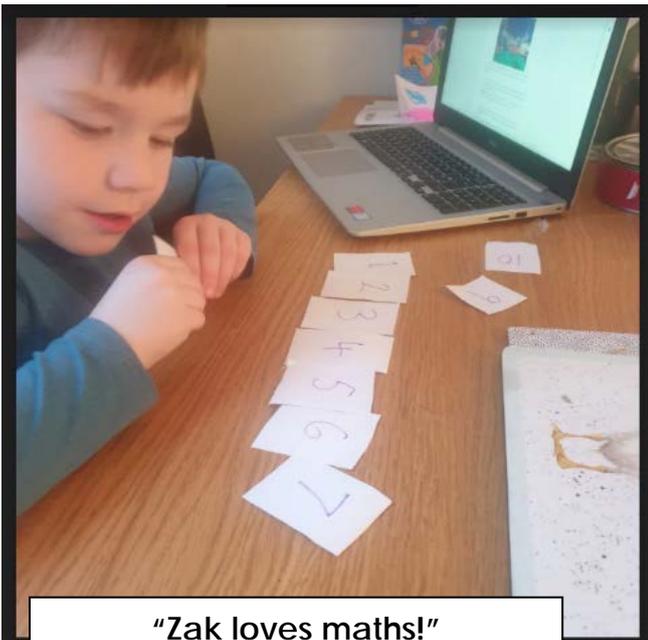
"It's not perfect like Mrs Talkington but he is trying" - we think it is an excellent attempt!



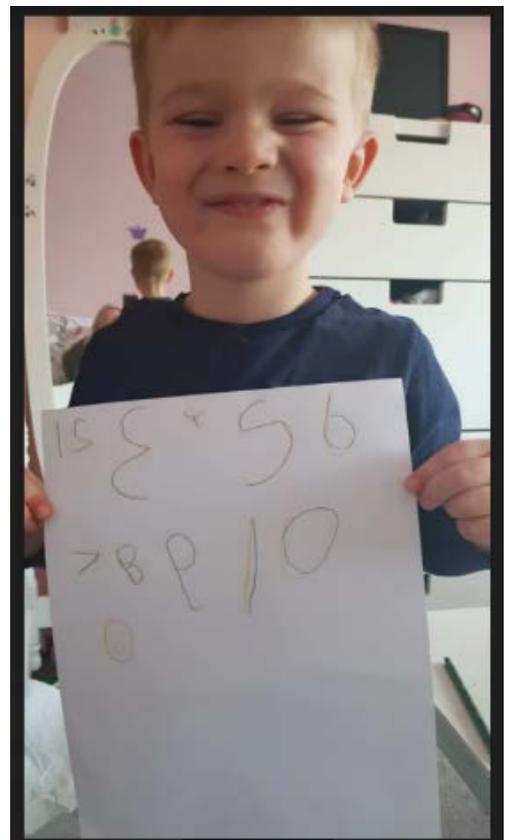
Harshitha has challenged herself to write the numbers all the way up to 20!



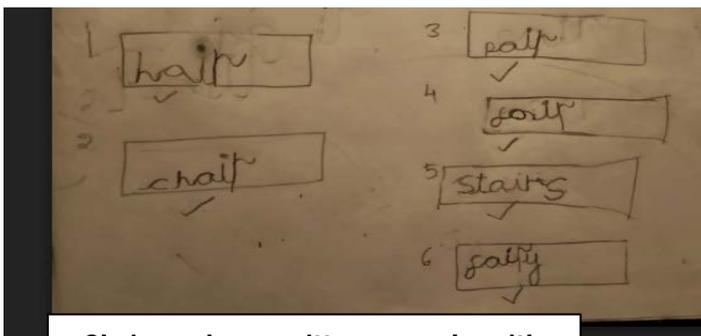
Scarlett enjoyed learning to draw and alien and made some play doh aliens too!



"Zak loves maths!"



Zach has ordered and written his numbers from 1 to 10.



Shriyan has written words with the trigraph 'air'

8 January 2021

Open letter to all parents/carers of children & young people

Dear Parent/Carer,

The National Lockdown announced by the Prime minister on the 4 January will have not been the start to the New Year we all would have hoped for. We acknowledge how extremely stressful and challenging 2020 has been for you and your family and hope that despite this, you and your family are keeping safe and well.

We reiterate the national direction to us all, ***You must stay at home. The single most important action we can all take is to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives. You should follow this guidance immediately. This is the law.***

In the spirit of this guidance we wish to remind you that **your child should stay at home and access remote learning if it is safe to do so**. This will lower the number of households mixing and reduce transmission of the virus.

We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the immediate challenge that the National Lockdown provides for our Early Years settings, schools and colleges to ensure that your children can access their learning.

You will be aware that the [government has announced](#) that vulnerable children and children of Critical Workers can return to school and that a place will be available for them. Where a child cannot be safely cared for at home, Critical Workers should request a place for their child directly with their school and be prepared to provide evidence of their employment. Please be assured of the commitment of all our education leaders to welcome some children back this term, where it has been determined by the school and local authority, that this is essential for their safety or if their parents work is critical to the COVID-19 or the EU transition response.

Many of our settings are currently experiencing challenges to facilitate the delivery of high-quality remote learning alongside safe on-site learning when the workforce is reduced through illness and self-isolating. This situation will require school leaders, as a last resort, to prioritise the return of children based of their need and safety. We ask that you continue to show the same patience and compassion to leaders and staff in our settings that you have demonstrated throughout this national emergency whilst arrangements are put in place over the coming days.

Whether or not your child's education setting is putting in place the rapid testing programme right away, it is very important that we reassure you that all settings will be continuing to regularly review and put in place all the protective measures recommended by Public Health England and the Department for Education to reduce the risk of transmission these include social distancing, hand washing, good ventilation, face coverings as appropriate and ensuring people with symptoms do not attend. These remain the most effective ways to reduce the spread of the virus, even with rapid testing in place.

With transmission of the virus continuing to rise across the country, remember that if your child or a member of your household is unwell, has symptoms or tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), you must follow the [national stay at home guidance](#) to reduce further transmission of the virus. Follow this guidance also if advised to do so by NHS Test and Trace or your education setting.

Finally, may we take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support to staff and leaders in our education settings; through your commitment to work in partnership we can together ensure that all our children can access their learning and the support they need to secure their wellbeing and a successful future.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Hutchinson
Surrey County Council
Director of Public Health



Rachael Wardell
Surrey County Council
Executive Director of Children, Families
and Lifelong Learning.