



Some of the first ideas for the Kate Gate. Our intention is to re-create the childrens' actual drawings...  
Chocolate, cycling and numbers. A good start!

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Tomorrow, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February will be a SCREEN FREE day of learning. We all need one!**

One of the hardest things of lockdown has been enforcing something – screen-time and sitting still - that we have always discouraged.

Here's the plan:

Full details of tomorrow are on Google Classroom TODAY and will have been shared/discussed with you/your children. You shouldn't have to turn a computer on tomorrow! Please try not to AND no TV/gaming.

The forecast is thankfully dry so we really hope you are able to get outside as part of the day.

**PLEASE SEND PHOTOS OF ANY HIGHLIGHTS! WE'D LIKE TO SHARE LOTS OF PICTURES. EMAIL TO ME OR TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER. THANK YOU.**

### Half term

**Half term – the week of 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> - is a holiday! School will be closed. There will be no Google Classroom work. As ever we ask you to enjoy time together, to read books and – respecting all the current rules – to get out and about and reboot the brain and the focal length!**

Good news from Camden and its vaccination plan – they are already onto vaccinating the over 60s and a huge 1,000 a day centre is now open at the Crick Institute on top of local provision. Of interest are this week's public health slides shared with me as headteacher. Two are attached which show the current decline of the virus in Camden.

This bodes well for our safe return but I cannot share any definite plans yet. Like you, I am following national press conferences. We hold March 8<sup>th</sup> in our heads but as yet know nothing about what that will look like (all year groups at once etc).

Fear not – we will share any news as soon as we have it!

### Parents' Meetings

Good to 'see' you last night – without masks! The vast majority of parents made it into the virtual classroom for a chat with teachers.

Our sense was that we prefer 'live' meetings which enable more fluent dialogue. When we come through this we will take time to reflect with you all on what, if anything, we will keep from this remote experience.

Miss Mac was very sad to share the news that our Year 6 residential, already postponed from September, will not be happening. All the 'Farms for City Children' farms are closed for the full academic year. We don't yet know if Sayers Croft will re-open in time for Year 5's trip in May, the Epping Forest campsite for Year 4 or the Mill for Year 2. It is very much our desire that these trips happen, but you'll understand that the decision is out of our hands.



## Statutory Assessment

The government announced recently that there will not be compulsory testing (SATs) and reporting in Year 6 this May and that schools will not have to report on Year 2 levels, Year 1 phonics attainment and end of Reception levels.

This does not mean that we won't work to high standards. We have always taken a healthy view of these assessments and used them to inform and shape our teaching. It is highly likely our Year 6 will sit past papers to give you – and them – a sense of having reached an expected standard – and gone beyond! In Year 2 the test papers only ever informed our end of year levels and we will continue to do this. As last year, we will do the Year 1 phonics check using a past paper. We will share outcomes with you as usual.

We will do the - now optional – Year 4 times table check next June. Keep using this excellent website which mimics the style of the test <https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-check>

Recommended to all keen-beans learning their tables from Year 1 up! It allows you to practise all or some of the tables. Don't change the time though – 6 seconds is the key benchmark for secure recall!

Testing has always been useful as a diagnostic and a benchmark but perhaps this will herald the end of the pressure of league tables and schools - and children - being judged by test outcomes alone.

## Nursery applications

A final reminder to all of you and your neighbours that we need applications for Nursery 2021. This will be for children born between 01.09.17 and 31.08.18. We sense that with lockdown and the lack of access to both visiting us and meeting up with other parents, that many parents don't have the same sense of urgency for applying

## Stars of the week

Congratulations to you all on another week. Teachers will continue, in the absence of Golden Book assembly, to highlight children who have done particularly well. I have a large collection of chocolate button bags for this week and last week's stars. Do come and collect yours anytime 8-6 daily – we'd love to see you!

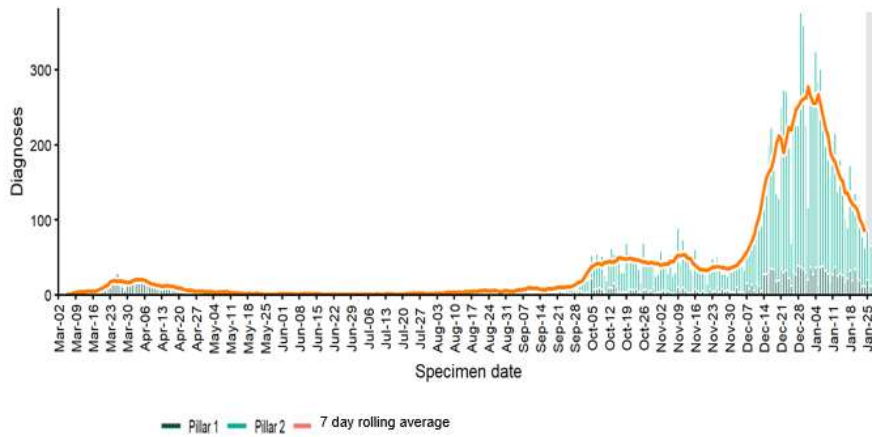
- Nursery star is Yusuf – Susie loves your excellent contributions during the Zoom sessions and creative responses to Google classroom!
- Reception's is Siandra – Sophie is delighted by how engaged you are and how much progress you are making, especially in maths. You are also working really hard on your letter formation and phonics. Well done!
- Year 1 star is Sam- Mrs Stokes says you are putting so much effort and time into all your work - especially the Xanthe story writing this week and the beautiful Egyptian collar you made. Always ready with a pad and pencil for every zoom, ready to learn and join in!
- Year 2's is Max – Miss Cousins has praised your consistent hard work and effort throughout all tasks, but particular care taken with your handwriting and presentation this week!
- Year 3's is Thomas - Mr Cairns says that you are making a huge effort and loves how you challenge yourself in everything you do!
- Year 4 star is Lila S – Mr Palejowski has noticed how you always want to challenge yourself and consistently work hard. A special mention for your fantastic out of hours topic work this week!
- Year 5 star is Emmanuel - Mr Gibson is impressed by how hard you are working and with such independence and enthusiasm.
- Year 6's is Molly. In addition to completing all your work, Miss Mac has noticed how your writing is just getting better and better!

With love and best wishes to you and all your family.

Kate Ford



Trends in cases: Epidemic curve of daily confirmed COVID-19 cases over time in Camden, by specimen date 4 most recent days subject to reporting delay - indicated by grey background



## Daily number of cases: January 15<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of January

