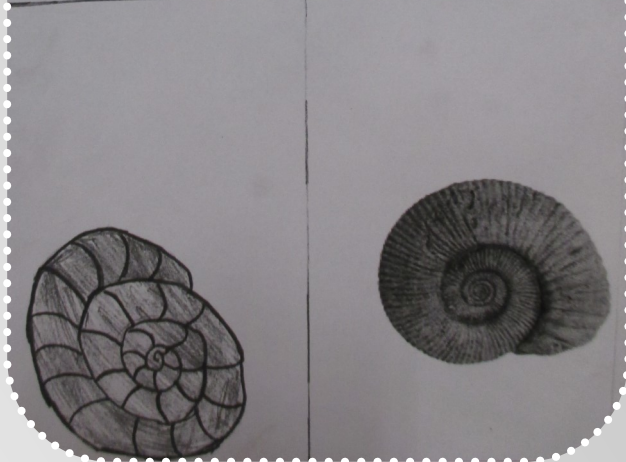
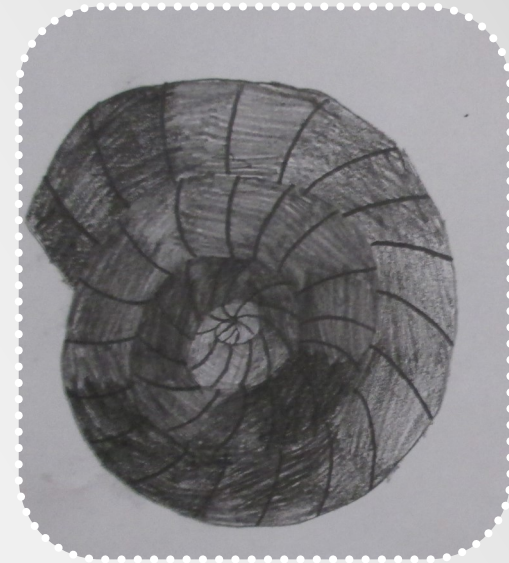
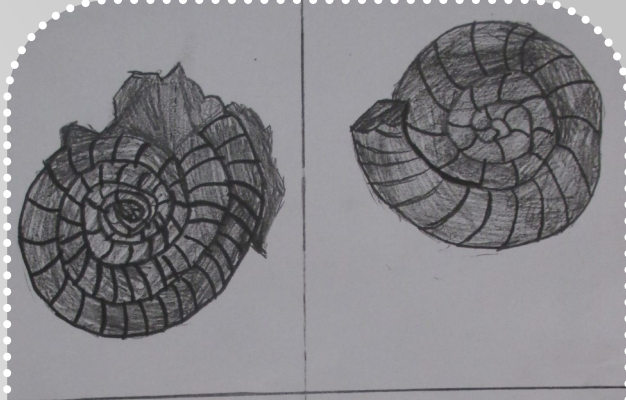


# Darwin's Delights



Year Six have produced some stunning work this week as part of their topic on evolution and inheritance.

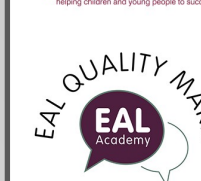


In class, pupils studied ammonite fossils and made careful, observational drawings. They also researched prehistoric ammonoids—a group of creatures closely related to modern day squid, octopus and nautilus. Working together, children made clay models of fossils and went on to find out about the life of the pioneering palaeontologist, Mary Anning. Fabulous learning!



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of Education





# Darwin's Delights

What was Charles Darwin's theory of evolution?

Charles Darwin

theory evolution

naturalist natural world

voyage HMS Beagle

observation finch

What is artificial selection?

Look at the pictures of these breeds of dogs. Can you identify the characteristics that have been inherited from their parent breeds?

What have these birds become adapted to their environments?

Charles Darwin

adaptive traits

Evolution and Inheritance

offspring characteristic

inheritance

genes

selection

species

variation

adaptation

specimen

Galapagos Islands

The Galapagos Islands

Journey River Sea

STONE GIRL BONE GIRL

ALL ABOUT EVOLUTION

CHARLES DARWIN

Charles Darwin





# Malina - Sun Goddess



As part of their "Stargazers" topic, Year 5 have been reading and responding to the Inuit myth of Malina the sun goddess and Anningan the moon god.

The myth tells the story of how the sun and moon were created and it explains why we see different phases of the moon. Pupils enjoyed creating these fantastic sun and moon plaques which are currently on display in the classroom.

# Anningan - Moon God





# Aurora Borealis

Aurora, Dawn Queen,  
Dancing through starlight  
In her dress of green  
Has to be seen—  
To be believed.

Aurora, bending over backwards  
Under the invisible magnetic pole  
Pulling in the solar wind  
For her own brand of limbo.

Aurora Borealis,  
How she turns and twists  
Such undulating kicks  
An electrical diva  
On Earth's axis.

## Art Work by Year 5



# Seeing Stars



Year 5 have been on a tour of the solar system this week thanks to Poppy who kindly brought in 30 pairs of 3D glasses and a special 3D poster of the planets. Well done children, for your “out of this world” learning about Space.



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child  
Article 29: Goals of Education



# School Information

## Applying for a School Place in Reception 2021

The closing date to make your child's primary or infant school application is **15 January 2021**. Late applications will not be processed until after National Offer Day (16 April 2021). To apply for a place, please use this link: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions>

## National Poetry Day



National Poetry Day is the annual mass celebration on the first Thursday of October that encourages all to enjoy, discover and share poetry. This year, national Poetry Day takes place on **1st October 2020**, and the theme is Vision. Children at Sydenham will be getting involved with activities on the day, to See It Like a Poet and to celebrate poetry's power to bring people together. National Poetry Day starts conversations; it encourages a love of language; and, best of all, it's open to absolutely everyone to join in, quietly or noisily, in rewarding and enjoyable ways. Further on in the newsletter, we have shared some of the year's chosen poems for all of you to enjoy and reflect on at home. Which one is your favourite?!

## Social Distancing

You will, of course, be aware that the government has implemented stricter national guidelines in response to the recent rise on cases of covid-19. Social distancing on the school site can be challenging at drop-off and pick-up times due to the increased numbers of people. We politely remind you that government guidance states that where possible, **children should be dropped off and collected by one adult**. We appreciate that some parents may have to bring along other children from within the family, but if it's possible to come without siblings, please do so. Thank you.

## Cleaning

In response to covid-19, we increased our school cleaning hours so that there is a member of our cleaning team on site all day to wipe down touch points and refresh the toilets. During the Summer term, an external cleaning contractor (Zirkon) conducted a full DC20 Service (high touch point cleaning, surface cleaning, disinfection and full anti-viral fogging of the premises). We have now purchased our own anti-viral fogging system, and will be using this product on a regular basis in addition to the increased cleaning hours.

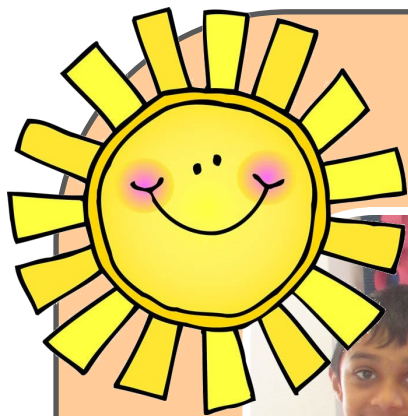
## Email response time

Please note that we are experiencing exceptionally high numbers of emails and telephone calls due to Covid-19. Please note that response times may be longer than usual, as our staffing capacity has not increased! We apologise for any inconvenience caused and thank you for your patience and kindness to staff.

## School website

Our school website provider ceased trading recently and our website is in the process of being switched to a new company. Until this process is complete, the website is not available through search engines. The website may still be accessed by typing the address into your browser, but we are experiencing technical difficulties in updating it during this period of transition. Please bear with us!





# Wellbeing



Sydenham has a long history of supporting the positive mental health and wellbeing of its pupils. We see this as a priority of the utmost importance since poor wellbeing can be a blocker to learning and life-long success. We were very proud a couple of years ago to be presented with the AcSEED Emotional Wellbeing in Schools Award by the mental health charity, MIND, and we continually strive to improve our provision in this area.

We're pleased to report that most children have returned to school full of enthusiasm for their learning and happy to see their friends and teachers again. However, we realise that the Covid-19 crisis may have raised anxieties amongst some of our pupils and families. If your child is experiencing difficulties, we hope you feel reassured that we offer the following:

## Ongoing Support for All Pupils:

- Access to individual staff who are trained as Mental Health First Aiders.
- All staff trained in Emotion Coaching.
- All staff trained in growth mindset pedagogies.
- Participation in The Taking Care Project.
- Forest School.
- Relationships Education.
- 1-1 Bubble Time or small group support.

## Personalised Support:

- Drawing and Talking therapy.
- Therapeutic cookery.
- Anger/anxiety management programmes.
- Nurture provision
- Access to a school counsellor.
- Access to school-based NHS Education Mental Health Practitioners.
- Referral to external agencies.

**Please get in touch if you would like help or more information.**

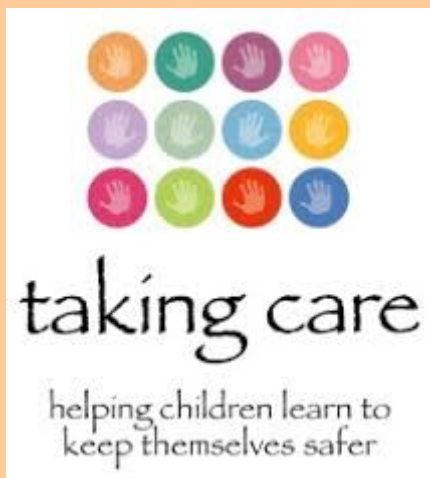


UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 24: Health



# Taking Care Project



This half-term, teachers will deliver the “Taking Care Project.” There will be lessons for all year groups and children will learn about protective behaviours that can help to keep them safe. The lessons build confidence and empower pupils by linking safety with having adventures and taking sensible risks.

All the lessons are underpinned by the understanding that children have the right to feel safe. Pupils learn

that with this right comes a responsibility not to do anything that would leave other people feeling unsafe. They are taught that they can identify if they are feeling unsafe by tuning into their “early warning signs,” those things that happen in our body like butterflies in the stomach, wobbly knees etc. that let us know we don’t feel OK in this particular situation. Pupils develop an understanding that, if they get those ‘early warning signs’, they should stop and think clearly about what their options are and what action they might need to take. Children go on to build a support network of people who could help with problem solving. This might include a family member, a trusted adult at school or a friend.

Pupils will complete a series of fun activities to develop their thinking and problem solving skills so that they are more able to take protective action on their own behalf and seek help from others as necessary. We know that, when children feel safe, they are more likely to be confident, strong and empowered so can “get out there”, have some adventures and live life to the full within a framework of safety.

For more information, please speak to your child’s class teacher or visit:

<https://www.protectivebehaviours.org/what-does-protective-behaviours-mean>



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child  
Article 3: Best Interests of the Child







Earlier this week, we shared messages and images from Warwickshire County Council's social media campaigns, which ask adults who drop off and / or collect child/ren from school to please wear a face covering whilst on the school site *if you are able to*. Please note that it is **not mandatory** to wear a face covering outdoors on school sites at this time. It is recommended that people wear a face covering where social distancing may be difficult, and we appreciate that there are some challenges with social distancing at busy times of the school day. We respect the fact that there are parents and carers who are not able to wear a face covering for medical or personal reasons. To see the current government guidelines on wearing face coverings, please copy the link below into your web browser.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 5: Parental Guidance

Article 2: Non-discrimination



# National Poetry Day

## Dreams

Hold fast to dreams  
For if dreams die  
Life is broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams  
For when dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow



© Langston Hughes

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### Langston Hughes

Langston Hughes is an American poet, born in 1902. He was part of the Black Power movement of the 1960's and was one of the earliest innovators of "jazz poetry.". Permeating his work is pride in the African-American identity and its diverse culture. He won many awards during his life and memorials to him can be found across the United States.



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of Education



# National Poetry Day



## A Portable Paradise

And if I speak of Paradise,  
then I'm speaking of my grandmother  
who told me to carry it always  
on my person, concealed, so  
no one else would know but me.  
That way they can't steal it, she'd say.  
And if life puts you under pressure,  
trace its ridges in your pocket,  
smell its piney scent on your handkerchief,  
hum its anthem under your breath.  
And if your stresses are sustained and daily,  
get yourself to an empty room – be it hotel,  
hostel or hovel – find a lamp  
and empty your paradise onto a desk:  
your white sands, green hills and fresh fish.  
Shine the lamp on it like the fresh hope



### Roger Robinson

Roger Robinson is a writer who has performed worldwide and was chosen by Decibel as one of 50 writers who have influenced the black-British writing canon. He was shortlisted for The OCM Bocas Poetry Prize, The Oxford Brookes Poetry Prize, highly commended by the Forward Poetry Prize. He is an alumnus of The Complete Works. His latest book *A Portable Paradise* was chosen as a New Statesman Book Of The Year and won the T.S. Eliot Prize 2019. He has toured extensively with the British Council and is a co-founder of both Spoke Lab and the international writing collective Malika's Kitchen.



# National Poetry Day

## Love in the Time of Coronavirus

Today, we stockpile empathy.

We supply love and good energy.

We sing to each other across buildings.

We say 'I love you' through social distancing.



Do you know that writing letters

To our friends is back in fashion?

And that we finally have time to read more books,

Whether historical or fiction?



Nikita Gill

My cousin told me she hadn't seen

such a blue sky in her city before.

My uncle went out on his first walk in the woods.

He heard a bird sing since the first time he went to war.

Even in sickness, this world

Is allowed to be beautiful.

And we are still allowed to love it,

For there is always room for hope.

This is just me checking in

Sending you the moon as a poem,

Praying and wishing for us all

a speedy recovery

And if nothing else,

There will always be poetry.

Nikita is a British-Indian poet with a world-wide fan-base, who has won praise and the attention of 500,000 Instagram followers for poetry collections and plays that offer a largely female readership the chance to recognise the value of their own experiences.

She discovered her own poetry vocation as a schoolgirl in New Delhi through reading the work of Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost: she now champions the work of others, particularly the new generation of young poets who discovered the power of poetry on-line and are as happy streaming new work as reading it in books. Her latest collection *The Girl and the Goddess* is due out in September, as is her new anthology *SLAM!* You're gonna wanna hear this which is billed by publisher Macmillan as the "perfect introduction to the world of modern poetry".



# National Poetry Day Clouds

I'd like to lounge around  
on a settee of beaches

looking up at  
a ceiling of clouds.

Just as I did as a kid,  
I'd lie on my back  
and stare at the sky,

Try to find faces  
in the passing shapes  
of clouds.

I'd find my family,  
my uncles, aunts and cousins.

I'd find my teacher's face  
in a stern looking  
cumulonimbus.

I'd see the Queen  
and wonder what she was doing  
flying over my town.

My dog too, looking down on me  
chasing the puffy clouds  
as they rolled along.

I'd wonder what it would be like  
to wander among clouds,

To change their direction,  
move the big black ones away.  
Go rain on some other town.

These were the angry ones,  
bursting to loosen the rage  
inside them.

Others were gentle strollers,  
drifting to destinations  
I could only dream of.

Some were airships,  
dragons, covered wagons  
crossing the plains of sky.

Some were lonesome,  
single puffs of cloud,  
left behind like  
lost children.

I'd stare and I'd stare  
till my neck began to ache  
& the horizon tilted  
making me giddy.

Clouds were there for me  
when life was drab  
filling my imagination  
with wisps of wonder.



## Brian Moses

Brian Moses lives in the small Sussex village of Burwash with his wife Anne and their loopy Labrador called Honey. He has been a professional children's poet since 1988. To date he has over 200 books published including volumes of his own poetry such as *Lost Magic: The Very Best of Brian Moses* (Macmillan) and *I Thought I Heard a Tree Sneeze: Poems for Younger Children* (Troika). He has compiled over 60 poetry anthologies and written picture books such as *Dreamer – Saving Our Wild World* (Otter-Barry Books) and *Walking With My Iguana* (Troika).

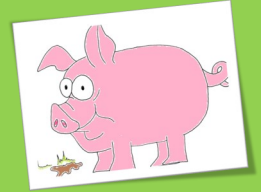
# Sydenham Superstars

## YR LS

The YR LS superstar is **Isabella**. Isabella is such a kind and honest girl. This week, she worked hard at the drawing table to make a rainbow picture for her friend, Henry. She used coloured pens and scissors and was very proud of her achievements.

## YR HC

This week's superstar is **Jasiu**. Jasiu ordered numbers to twenty independently and is always keen to have a go, like our pig Learning Character. Well done for your super attitude to learning.



## Y1 EL

Mrs Lee Has chosen **David** to be her superstar. She has been really impressed with his attitude towards his learning this week. He has been more confident with sharing his ideas and Mrs Lee can see how hard he has been trying with his schoolwork. Keep up the good work David.

## Y1 CD

**Taran** is this week's Y1 CD superstar. Taran has worked really hard on his handwriting, using the line guides to help him. He has concentrated well and been really proud of his efforts. Well done!

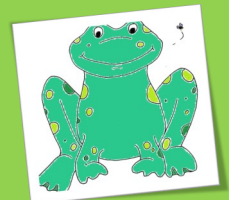


## Y2 CP

Miss Peters would like to choose **Rocco P** as her superstar. Rocco has done some brilliant reading and fantastic listening this week. He has also been enthusiastic about his writing and created a super newspaper report and alternative story ending.

## Y2 RK

Miss Knight is so proud of **Aaron** and would like him to be her superstar. Aaron has had a go at all his learning and kept on improving his writing. You should be very proud of yourself, Aaron.



## Y3 JL

The Y3 JL superstar is Aarav who Mr Lee describes him as "an all-round legend!" This week, Aarav was really keen to read a story to the class. He practised at home and gave a fantastic reading, making story-time really special for everyone at the end of the day.



# Sydenham Superstars

## Y3 CR

**Harvir** is this week's superstar. Harvir has impressed Mrs Christensen and Mrs Rastall with his hard work, sensible behaviour and super work ethic. He has concentrated and completed all his learning to the best of his ability. Fantastic!

## Y4 SM

This week's superstar is **Freya**. Mrs Madahar has been away from school this week with a poorly leg so the class has been taught by Mr Dalton. Freya was so welcoming, helpful and conscientious to him and really concentrated well on her learning.

## Y4 AH

Mr Hawes has chosen **Lexi** as superstar. Lexi used the Purple Mash program to create a wonderful piece of work about coral reefs. It was informative, well written and included lots of technical vocabulary and language features, such as generalisers, that the class had worked on in English lessons.



## Y5 CB

**Bhaavi** is Y5 CB superstar. Bhaavi made a super Powerpoint presentation about the astronaut Neil Armstrong which she shared with the class. She is always kind, hard working and friendly. Well done!

## Y5 JE

Miss Ellershaw would like to choose **Amelia** as superstar for her great big smile and sunny personality. Amelia is a pleasure to have in the classroom and is a kind and thoughtful friend to others.

## Y6 KG

**Edy** has been chosen this week for using all of his Learning Characters. He is enthusiastic, keen to improve and is working so hard to get his handwriting pen license. Edy also did some amazing long division this week!



## Y6 JvS

Mrs Van der Sterren has chosen Danica as this week's superstar. Danica is helpful, polite and makes sensible choices. He is a brilliant support to others in the class and a fabulous talk partner.

**Have a lovely weekend!**

**From Miss Glenny and all the staff at Sydenham**