

# NEWSLINE

March 2020  
Issue 7



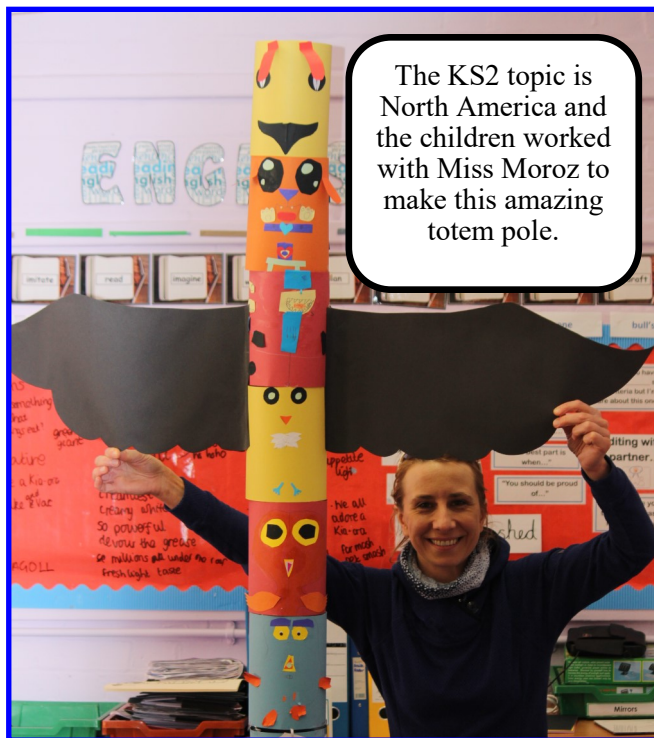
The diary of a school that is closed but still open. Contributions from members of our wonderful community. Keep them coming. With thanks,

## DAY 1 Monday 23rd March 2020

Number of pupils: 28 organised into Four Groups.

“As I was filling up the watering cans and handing them back to the children, Leon from 2S class turned around to me and said ‘Isn't this just a wonderful day?’ It took me aback a little. Such a grown-up thing to say. Such a strange thing to say in these strange times. But he was right. It was a wonderful day. A sunny, wonderful day where seven children and three adults were doing things they don't often have time to do whilst appreciating each other's company. It made me feel a lot better about this whole mad situation, if a little tearful, and I shall remind myself of Leon's musings and that moment whenever I need a bit of a lift.” CM.

SS says her little one had a good ‘day 1’ on the home schooling front. Mum says, “I'm in charge today. Saying yes and doing my best!”



The KS2 topic is North America and the children worked with Miss Moroz to make this amazing totem pole.

## DAY 2 Tuesday 24th March 2020

Number of pupils: 14 organised into Two Groups.

This email was waiting for us this morning -  
“I felt compelled to write you an email to express my gratitude to not only you, but to all your staff members I have come across during the time both my children have attended your school.

We have nothing but admiration and respect for all the hard work you and your team put in to making North Primary such a special school.

What with all the government cuts you have had to deal with over the years and now, through the unprecedented global pandemic that is changing our lives on a daily basis you always seem to set the right tone. I can't imagine how difficult it must be.

Again thank you very much. We really appreciate the positive influence you and the school has had on my children lives.

We shall be really sad when L leaves. Although we are not sure when, or if it has happened all ready in this present climate.” That put a spring in the step!

*This advice came in from MS -*

*Play, laugh, love: Use this opportunity to play games, dance, be silly and give lots and lots cuddles! If you are running out of ideas, check out Make Time 2 Play:*

*<http://www.maketime2play.co.uk/> They also have an app to download. Lots of free and fun ideas!*



SB is getting stuck into his home learning. Whereas KH is finding that her boys' concentration is waning as a very naughty cat proves more interesting!



And Yasmin is practising her phonics whilst social distancing.



Thanks to all the staff who have worked in school this week and to the unsung heroes. All the amazing office staff who have had to introduce new record systems for Essex County Council and the Government - as well as sort out year end and new contracts and set up the new budget - and send out squillions of messages from AG.

The Ladies in the kitchen. And of course the magnificent Hughes Corporation, making sure the school is sparkle-clean.

AND THANK YOU TO ALL THE OTHER KEY WORKERS WHO ARE HOLDING THE COUNTRY TOGETHER AND TO ALL THE MEDICAL STAFF WHO PUT THEMSELVES IN GREAT DANGER EVERY DAY TO SAVE THE LIVES OF OUR LOVED ONES, OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS.

**RESPECT THE LOCKDOWN**

“Everyone is feeling extremely anxious and concerned about the weeks ahead and making plans to fill your children’s time. You may have high hopes for hours of learning including online activities, science experiments and book reviews. In many ways it is good to have a timetable to maintain normality, but these are not normal times. Children are confused, anxious and upset even though some may initially celebrate no school! Their reality is now not seeing their friends or running off energy at playtime or sharing stories of their weekend. A large proportion of your time will be spent comforting and reassuring your children. You can bake, play board games, race around the garden, learn to juggle, explore new topics on the internet or even just snuggle under a blanket on the sofa watching films. If I can leave you with a thought before the home schooling adventure begins, it is that the happiness and security of your children is far more important than their academic progress. The weeks ahead will have an impact on all of us, aim to do something uplifting which brings optimism so that your children will remember positive family time rather than fear and anxiety.”

### Keeping in touch whilst the school is “closed”.

Whilst your children are not at school please remember the following:

Email or ring the school if you need advice on parenting. We will endeavour to respond as soon as we can.

In a crisis ring:

NSPCC 0808 800 5000  
Family Operations Hub 0345 603 7627

If you have money/housing worries contact Colchester Borough Council 01206 282222.

If you need help with food contact the school to get a virtual foodbank voucher.

School Nurse. Tracy McDougall, the school nurse will be keeping in touch with some families.

Family Support Worker, Amanda Rowe, will no longer be doing home visits but will support families over the phone.

Dear Families of North,  
Be creative!  
If you have any instrument - play it,  
Write a song - sing it,  
It doesn't matter if you think you are able to or not.  
Remember this:  
“When you pick up that instrument,  
When you make up that song,  
When you then get your family to sing along, others listen whenever they can, You will have created a thing that is new, And the world will be happier, all because of you.”  
I look forward to hearing all the beautiful music that I know you can all create when we are all back together again.  
Stay Safe

Mr Bosch

### Achieve a Balance

The BBC are bringing out lots of new educational programmes for children.

The National Literacy Trust are putting ideas for families on their website

Year 6s are writing and illustrating postcards to send to people who live alone in retirement and care homes. There are a number websites that are promoting this now.

### Mix up home learning with fun things to do together

### EXERCISE & GET LOTS OF FRESH AIR

#### BAKE

LEARN A NEW SKILL TOGETHER - YOUTUBE IS GREAT FOR DIY GUIDES

Get the children to watch their favourite DVD films with the sound down and subtitles on and get them to read in the voice of the characters!

#### YOGA

The children could teach you. Many do it in school. Their teacher, Naomi Davies, will also put lessons online. And after a long day with the kids, do the yoga by yourself. You may need it!

### TERM DATES

Mon 7th September 2020

First day of new school year

Mon 7th September 2020

Year 6 Residential to Weymouth

### GARDENING