

Good morning everyone,

By now I am sure that you all will have read the letter from Mrs Kettle, which was sent out on Parent Hub on Wednesday.

As school we are greatly saddened by her decision, but we fully understand and totally support her reasons for deciding to take early retirement.

As you all know, Mrs Kettle is the longest serving member of staff at our school, joining Amblecote, as a Newly Qualified Teacher, almost 31 years ago. During her time, she has not only had a positive impact on hundreds of children and their families, but also been an inspiring and supportive colleague and a truly wonderful friend.

Mrs Kettle will leave a huge hole in our school, but although she has decided to officially retire, we know it won't be the end. As she said in her letter, she has many plans to stay involved in school life.

In the present circumstances, planning the send-off that she so rightly deserves, may prove difficult. However, we want you to know that we will not let her go without marking this occasion in the correct way. It may be that we invite Mrs Kettle back next term, to show her how much she is loved and will be missed.

As always, I promise that I will keep you all updated on this.

This week, I have been busy reading all of your reports and writing my comments on them. My goodness parents, you are in for a treat! The reports are just wonderful and we are so lucky to have so many kind, caring, well mannered, enthusiastic, creative, intelligent and resilient children at our school!

I hope you all have a great VE Day and a super weekend! I will speak to you all again next week. Mrs Cook x

THE MASON MUSIC AWARD

As many of you know, each term at Amblecote Primary we award a special trophy to a pupil who has excelled in Music - The Mason Music Award. Mr Foster messaged me to say that he had someone in mind and could we let everyone know via the weekly newsletter!

Message from Mr Foster:

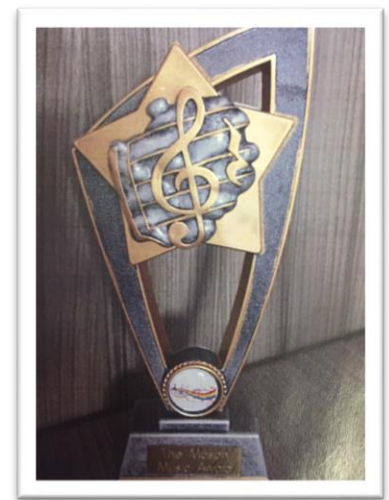
I am delighted to say that the award for the Spring term goes to **Hayden** in Year 6!

Hayden's attitude is outstanding! In Music lessons he has made super progress with ukulele, practising regularly at home and in his modest and unassuming way he shows a willingness to help others.

Hayden has been an ever present member of Choir and always keen to set up and help me with any computer issues..!

Furthermore, during this enforced absence from school, Hayden has demonstrated his desire and thirst for learning by achieving the most points on the music website 'Charanga'!

Hayden's manners are exemplary and his positive demeanour simply radiates round the room. He is a pleasure to teach. Congratulations Hayden!



Congratulations!

VIRTUAL PRAISE

Again this week, the teachers were texting our What's App group early on Wednesday, with all the marvellous reasons that they have chosen this week's Praise children. We all think you are just fantastic for all the amazing, creative and thoughtful things that you all doing! You make it very difficult for your teachers to choose!! Thank you

Class	Name	Reason
RJ	Emma	For being a good big sister and doing lots of learning at home.
RP	Piper Joni	For completing her Reading champions and riding her big bike. For painting stones for people to find in the woods and for her wonderful gardening.
1M	Lily	For her dedication to learning about WW2 with a variety of different activities.
1/2C	Isla-Rose Maddie Joshua E	For all of the super work that she has been doing at home. For all of her hard work and excellent baking. For making pictures for their mom to take to work at the West Midlands Ambulance Service
2M	Isobel Caleb	For her interview and report about her Grandad's VE Day memories. For learning to ride his bike without stabilisers.
3K	Lacey	For really focusing on her TT Rock stars and transforming her chart from reds to greens!
3/4S	Jamie George	For taking part in the record breaking #campathome with the Cubs.
4H	Jack Sophie	For painting NHS stones and continuing with his learning. For her baking skills, making pizza, flapjacks and cakes.
5B	Noah Will	For creating amazing geography fact files, with maps and illustrations and also making a wonderful virtual wedding anniversary for his parents, as a surprise. For an amazing piece of writing based on Another World and a non-chronological report on earthquakes.
5/6F	Riley	For completing lots of VE day activities and for making his first cup of tea independently for his Mom.
6P	Erin Hayden	For her commitment to her learning and daily exercise on her computer. For being a kind, caring and considerate young man.



BIRTHDAY SHOUT OUTS

Just because we are not in school, doesn't mean we can send lots of happy birthday wishes to everyone who are celebrating this week!



Happy Birthday to

Liam and Chloe

SUNDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT

This Sunday, our Prime Minister, Mrs Boris Johnson, will be addressing the nation on his 'road map' plan to ease the lockdown. I will be watching this with many of you and finding out at exactly the same time what his plans are. We have a virtual meeting on Monday morning, with the Senior Leadership Team in school, so that we can discuss what was announced and make a plan going forward, following government guidelines and as always, keeping our children and staff safe.

You will be informed of any changes to our current situation via Parent Hub.

BUSY LITTLE BEES

Thank you all again for the wonderful photos that you send to all the teachers, to show us what you have been up to. We all just love seeing what you have been doing and most importantly – your smiley faces! We miss you all so much!



This week, Isobel and Megan have been watching closely the metamorphosis of their caterpillars into butterflies, they also baked the most delicious looking cake! Alyvia and Noah, both made posters to send a message to our school, as they are really missing everyone and Noah also made scrambled eggs for the first time!! Tejo and Willow have been busy learning about VE Day and World War 2. They learnt about children being evacuated and are creating a VE window display too! Don't they look amazing! Charlie has also been doing a lot of learning and being creative at home! Holly and Millie were in full VE Day mode this week; making Great Nan Mary's bread pudding. It was very messy and lots of trial and error thanks to her 'throw it all in and cook it until it's done' recipe advice but it came out very well! They didn't think it would last until their driveway street party on today! Max has also been working hard and created an amazing VE display in his window! Finally Amelie, who left us last year, had a short story has been published in a book! A copy of the book has been bought by the school, for the school library so when we are back, we can read it! Well done Amelie, it's always great to hear how well are ex-pupils are doing!

Charlie and Danny at the Black Country Living Museum need our help!

At Amblecote, let's do our bit to help the environment AND help some special horses at the same time who need a shelter. Use your recycling to build a shelter for them to protect them against all the different weather we have in the UK. Be as imaginative and creative as you like! Send in your photos and testing videos to your class teacher by Friday 22nd May. The winner from each phase will be announced on the newsletter the following week! There will be prizes to follow upon return to school.

Connect with
**BLACK COUNTRY
LIVING
MUSEUM**

For learning resources visit
our web page and search
[History At Home](#)

Share your creations with us
on ... [twitter! @BCLivingMuseum](#)
[Instagram/bclivingmuseum](#)
[Facebook/bclivingmuseum](#)

Home Design and Technology Challenge

With everyone staying at home to stay safe, save lives and protect the NHS, local councils are reporting an increase in the amount of waste and recycling being collected from households. While you are waiting for your recycling collection, perhaps you could put some of the materials in your recycling boxes to good use!

Charlie and Danny the horses are being well looked after at the museum but we know they are missing and being missed by our visitors!

Can you use your stashes of recycling to build them a shelter?
It needs to protect them from the spring weather: sunshine,
rain and wind!

- Start by planning out your shelter on a piece of paper.
- Consider what materials you have and what you can do to them to make them fit for purpose—how could you waterproof a cereal box?
- Once you have designed your shelter, start making! See if you can get everyone in your house involved.
- We'd love to see your designs and finished products.



Key Stage 1 and 2 National Curriculum D&T Links

- design purposeful, functional, appealing products for themselves and other users based on design criteria (KS1)
- select from and use a range of materials according to their functional properties and aesthetic qualities (KS2)
- build structures, exploring how they can be made stronger, stiffer and more stable (KS1)
- evaluate ideas and products against design criteria and consider the views of others to improve work (KS2)

Success Criteria

Their shelter must...

- provide them with shade
- keep them dry
- protect them from the wind

Skills you might

- develop
- Cutting
- Joining
- Shaping
- Finishing
- Reinforcing

Test Your Shelter!

You could:

- sprinkle it with water from a watering can
- shine a torch to see if the light can get through
- give it a quick blast with a hairdryer to see whether it stands up to wind!

**BLACK COUNTRY
LIVING
MUSEUM**

Extra Challenge!

Can you create your own Charlie or Danny using your recycling?



YEAR 6

I am sure that many of you may have already seen this wonderful video that Lily's mom Nikki made for our wonderful year 6 children. If you haven't, here's the link, but be warned - get the tissues ready.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLI149NJ45A>

Next week, should have been Year 6 SATs Week and I know that many of you are disappointed not to be able to do these, after working so hard this year. However, I just want you all to know that you do not need to sit a test for us to know how wonderful you are. Last year, I shared a poem with Year 6 about SATs, and I think it is probably even more relevant now!

SATs don't measure sports, SATs don't measure art,
SATs don't measure music, or the kindness in your heart.
SATs don't see your beauty, SATs don't know your worth,
SATs don't see the reasons you were put upon this earth.
SATs don't see your magic, how you make others smile,
SATs don't time how quickly you can run a mile.
SATs don't hear your laughter, or see you've come this far,
SATs are just a tiny glimpse of who you really are.



Read your class learning overviews and look out for some 'unusual' SATs papers!

The image shows the cover of the 2020 National Curriculum Tests Key stage 2 KS2 Lockdown SATs paper. It features a blue header with the text "2020 National Curriculum Tests" and "Key stage 2" in white. Below this, "KS2 Lockdown SATs" is written in black. At the bottom, there is a form with fields for "First name", "Middle name", "Last name", "Date of birth" (with sub-fields for Day, Month, and Year), and "School name".

A MESSAGE FROM MR FOSTER

Just a reminder for all you lovely children. I know many children have been using the website 'Ukulele Rocks' whilst school has been closed and I'm thrilled about that...please keep practising and singing! Just a reminder that you can access the music website 'Charanga' which we also use in school. Like 'Ukulele Rocks' it is completely free of charge. To get your child's username and password please email Mr. Foster at rfoster@amblecote.dudley.sch.uk

'Charanga' is a music website provided by Dudley Performing Arts. The resources available include songs and instrument lessons. Once children begin using the website they can earn 'points' for completing lessons and gaining skills. Congratulations to Hayden Tether in 6P who has gained the most points in the last two weeks!

SAFEGUARDING AT AMBLECOTE

Even though we are not at school at the moment, we don't stop caring about you all.

If there is any point when you feel that you might need some help, advice, or just someone to talk to, please email: info@amblecote.dudley.sch.uk. This email is checked regularly throughout the day and someone will get back to you.

Many teachers have also been refreshing their knowledge on bereavement and how we can support our school community during difficult times. If there is anything that we can do as school to help you or your family, or you want to inform us of your family circumstances, so that we can support your child, please email:

info@amblecote.dudley.sch.uk and a member of staff will contact you.

Even whilst we are all away from school, it is important if you have any concerns about the safety or well-being of a child to call the children's services referral and advice service on **0300 555 0050** during office hours (9am - 5pm), contact the Emergency Duty Team on **0300 555 8574** (out of hours).