

# Rivington Foundation Primary School

Horrobin Lane, Rivington, Horwich, Bolton, BL6 7SE

Tel: (01204) 696951 Headteacher: Mrs S E Annette BA (QTS)



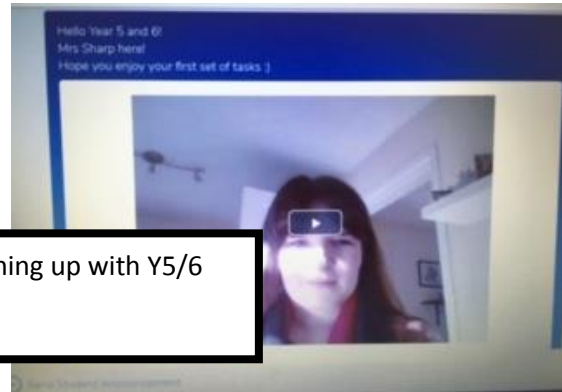
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Emily making lunch for everyone!



Mrs. Sharp catching up with Y5/6 on Seesaw!



Martha enjoying some science with her sister – looks like fun! Well done!





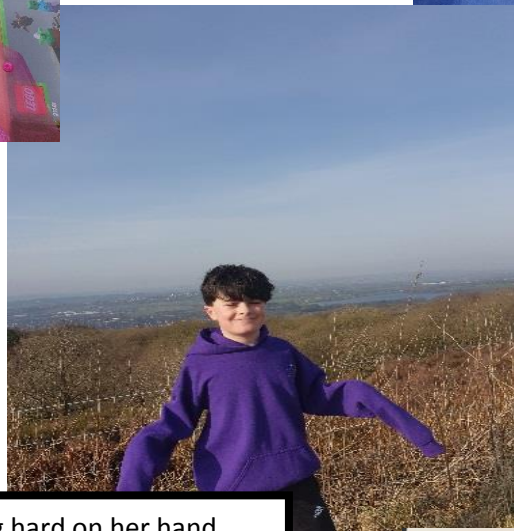
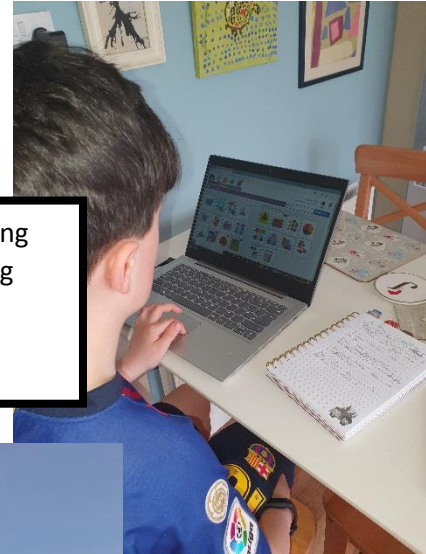
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Jackson building with Lego, doing some Purple Mash and enjoying some fresh air in the garden!  
You're working very hard!



Daisy working hard on her hand writing! Keep it up!



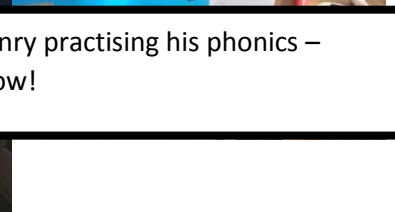
we practised reading and writing the ee words



Oscar doing some sorting and counting. What a star!



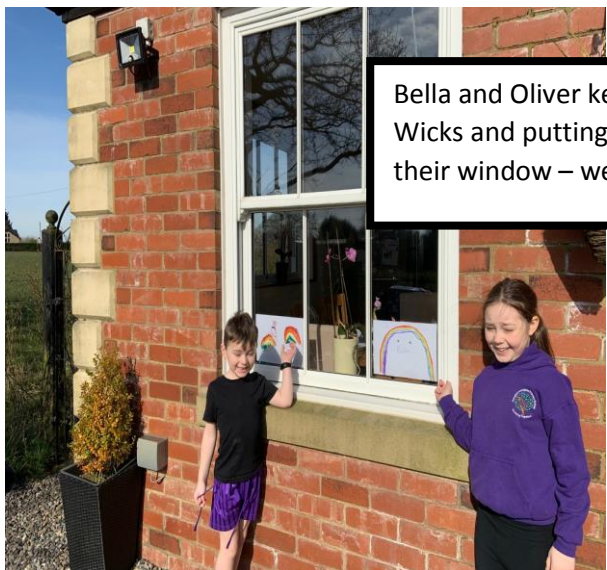
Henry practising his phonics –  
Wow!



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Bella and Oliver keeping fit with Joe Wicks and putting their rainbows in their window – well done you two!



Ollie looking cool whilst working hard and completing his tasks alongside his brother – keep it up you two!

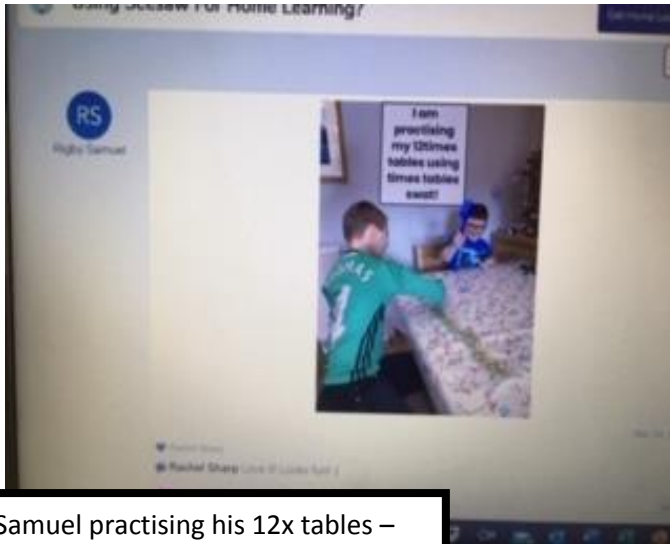




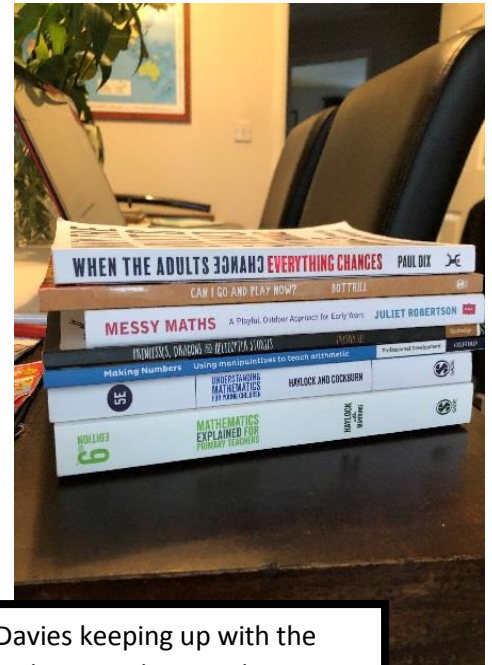
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Samuel practising his 12x tables – challenging stuff!



Mrs. Davies keeping up with the latest educational research – impressive stuff!



Charlie with his rainbows and enjoying free play! Well done!

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## Welcome to the school Newsletter, written by the staff, parents and pupils.

For all you parents doing a fantastic job at home you might enjoy this:

<https://www.facebook.com/189400264556867/videos/247806813045215/>

The hope is to keep our families connected with each other and to see what everyone is up to while we are either in school or isolated at home. We must remember all of our Critical Worker families, working tirelessly at this time for us and keep in mind any families that are worried and anxious about their loved ones. Please keep them in your prayers. We would like to say a huge thank you for your co-operation in staying at home and keeping your children at home as much as possible. As a result, only our critical workers have been sending their children into school and only when absolutely necessary. Consequently, we have had approximately 6-8 children in school each day. We have a number of staff self-isolating at home with their families at the moment and we are pleased to say everyone is ok. I would also like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful staff for their work in looking after the children so well at this very challenging time. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone in our school and community.

**Primary School Nursing Team:** The school nursing team will continue to operate whilst schools are closed. Should you or your child need to access the school nurse then please telephone 0300 247 0040. This service is available Monday to Friday 9-5.

**The Rainbow Trail:** Some of the children have made and painted rainbows to place in their windows to spread joy, hope and happiness and wrote letters of hope to those who maybe lonely at this time. If you look around your neighbourhoods you may see rainbows displayed in the windows of homes as a symbol of hope. In the middle of the darkness, let us brighten up your day! A rainbow is said to be the symbol of hope and a promise of better things to come. Share your picture with us at



[head@rivington.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@rivington.lancs.sch.uk). Here is mine!

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## What have we all been up to this week in school?

This week we have taken advantage of the lovely weather and enjoyed playing outside in the sunshine. We have exercised with Joe Wicks and taken part in yoga sessions each morning followed by the opportunity for children to complete their daily Maths and English tasks. The afternoons have been filled with art and computing where we created our own Lego stop motion animation films. The children have been fantastic.

## A message from Mrs. Sharples:

Hello everyone at Rivington Foundation Primary!

I hope that everyone is safe and well. I would like to thank all of year one and two for sending me all their hard work that they have been doing this week. These are trying times for everyone, but as a family we will overcome any obstacle and will soon be back learning together again. Enjoy your activities and please send them in via Seesaw. I am looking forward receiving all you creations. Keep safe and well,

*Mrs Sharples*

## A message from Mrs. Cliffe:

Well what a strange week for all of us! I can't believe it's already been a week since we have seen each other - time is flying by! Thank you so much for posting all your work and challenges on Seesaw, I look forward to seeing them every day. The videos that you have been uploading have been my favourite as it's been lovely to see all your faces. I miss you all terribly!

It's been very quiet at my house this week as Mr Cliffe has been poorly with the virus so my job has been looking after him. He is on the mend now which means the house will be noisy again soon!

Well done to all of you for staying inside and making sure that you are keeping yourself and others safe.

Look after yourselves and keep in touch

Mrs Cliffe xx

## A message from Mrs. Whittaker:

Hi!

You are all being amazing stay at home super heroes. It feels strange not being able to go out and see our friends. Teaching my own children at home whilst still trying to work is a real juggling act.



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I hear from the other teachers how busy you have all been on seesaw, purple mash and times table rock stars. Keep up the good work, don't forget to spend time outside, learning a new skill - sign language, growing plants 🌱 etc.

Maybe you could all grow something - whatever you have at home and put pictures on Twitter so we can all see your amazing work.

Key stage 2 if you are stuck for something to do 2code is on purple mash, I wonder how many bananas you can earn by helping the monkey?

Continue your great work stay at home superheroes 😊

See you all soon!

*Mrs Whittaker*

## **A message from Mrs. Sharp:**

Hello to all of our wonderful families from Mrs Sharp!

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. It's been a strange week- I've missed you all very much!

BUT, it has been so great to keep in touch with so many on Seesaw- it really has brightened my days to hear from the children, to see them share their work, and to be able to chat to them! Please keep logging in to see what activities and ideas the teachers are putting on there and to stay connected with school!

We are all doing an amazing job at keeping everyone safe in these very unusual times. A big well done to all of the children for being such stars at staying at home- and a big well done to all the staff and parents who are juggling looking after their own families whilst providing essential services to keep us all going.

Children- please remember to keep on talking about how you are feeling with the grown-ups you trust. We are just a phone call or a message away.

We are such a strong 'Rivi' family and we can pull through anything. Looking forward to when we're all back together... But for now, let's make the most of the Spring sunshine- as best as we can- and having more time with our nearest and dearest!

Take care and lots of love,

*Mrs Sharp xxx*



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## **Those of you at home with your children:**

Lots of people feeling stressed, overwhelmed and under pressure by the work being sent home for kids. I hope this can help with that somewhat.

### **Few points to note first:**

- 1) This is not home-schooling. This is an unprecedented emergency situation impacting the whole world. Let's keep perspective. Home-schooling is a choice, where you considered, you plan for it and you are your child's school teacher in whatever form you choose. This is at best distance learning. In reality, none of us know what we're doing and what's right and wrong here.
- 2) You are, and always have been, your child's primary educator. If you decide that your child isn't going to engage with anything sent home and is going to spend the entire period playing in the dirt, or baking, or watching TV that is your choice. There is nothing to stress or feel guilty about.
- 3) Schools don't know what they're doing either. They got no notice, no prep time and we're told "continue to plan lessons as normal and just send them home" as if that is in any way possible. If it were, we'd all be out of a job very quickly.
- 4) It is absolutely not possible to facilitate distance learning with a primary aged child and work from home at the same time. The very idea is nonsense. If you're trying to do that, stop now. You can certainly have activities where your child learns, but your focus is your job, and survival. Again, unprecedented. Stop trying to be superheroes.

### **So, a few FAQs:**

- My school has sent home lots of physical work. Pages and pages, hours and hours. How am I supposed to get through it all?!

- You're not, don't try. Your child's teacher spent a couple of hours in utter panic gathering things to send home so they could say they did their best and there weren't a lot of complaints that enough didn't go home. It's not a competition, or a race.

- My school keeps sending home links and emails with more work. How do I make it stop. Ahhhhhh!

- See above. These are suggestions and ideas. Use them if they suit you.

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My ideal for my kids in our school?

- A bit of reading every day (independent or to them or via audiobook etc).
- Some free writing now and then. If they'll keep a diary or something, great. If not, would they draw a comic?
- Practical hands on maths. Be that via cooking, cleaning, outside or some maths games physical or digital.
- Some fine motor work. Lego, cutting, playdough, tidying up small toys.
- Physical exercise everyday
- Some art/music where possible through the week. Doesn't need to be guided.
- Stretch goal, if old enough getting them to independently work on a project is great for keeping brains ticking over. Get them researching in a book or online and putting together something to present to you or family.
- If younger, lots of imaginative free play, the more independent the better.

You are doing enough. You are loving your kids and supporting them through a difficult time. Look after yourself. Minimising stress is absolutely vital in a time like this for mental health. Don't let this be something that stresses you. Only you can control that by accepting it is in your circle of control, you are the primary educator and this is all your call.

Our kids are just as scared as we are right now. Our kids not only can hear everything that is going on around them, but they feel our constant tension and anxiety. They have never experienced anything like this before.

Although the idea of being off of school for a while sounds great, they are probably picturing a fun time like the summer holidays, not the reality of being trapped at home and not seeing their friends.

Over the coming weeks, you will see an increase in behaviour issues. Whether it's anxiety, or anger, or protest that they can't do things normally - it will happen. You'll see more meltdowns, tantrums and oppositional behaviour in the coming weeks. This is normal and expected under these circumstances. What children need right now is to feel comforted and loved. To feel like it's all going to be ok.



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And that might mean that you tear up your perfect schedule and love your kids a bit more.

Play outside in the garden. Bake biscuits and paint pictures. Play board games and watch movies. Do a science experiment together or find virtual field trips of the zoo. Don't try to do three levels of work at once - you can't, stop trying. If they're old enough, try to get them to do little bits independently. Otherwise try to do something they can all engage with, reading a story together, some free writing, baking etc. Start a book and read together as a family. Snuggle under warm blankets and do nothing.

Don't worry about them regressing in school. Every single child is in this boat and they will all be ok. When we are back in the classroom, we will of course help them to catch up. Teachers are experts at this!

Don't pick fights with your kids because they don't want to do maths. Don't scream at them for not following the schedule. Don't force two hours of learning time if they are resisting it. If I can leave you with one thing, it's this: at the end of all of this, your kids' mental health will be more important than their academic skills. And how they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during this time is long gone.

So keep that in mind, every single day.

Looking forward to seeing you when all of this is over.

Lots of love,

*Mrs. Annette*