

## News from The Executive Head's Desk

I have felt on top of the world this week... well on top of the roof of our new building! Mrs Abernethy and I went on a site walk to see what is happening and went up on the roof to look down into the classrooms. It is all very exciting. The walls of the classrooms went up very quickly and within a week the roof is on. We were able to go into the classroom which will eventually house our Year 3 children. Mr Watson has ear-marked this room and is loving watching the progress of it all from the windows of Year 1. I think he has even decided where his desk will go. The windows all go in next week and then they move on to landscaping and interiors.



The builders have been brilliant throughout all of this and are planning different things they can do for the school. They are going to add height to forest school by building a mound with the soil from where the foundations were dug and are going to build us some raised beds too. We are very grateful for anything that will enhance the outdoor learning at Heathcote.

Our Kiwi groups have been busy this week learning about The Arctic Circle and the plight of polar bear. Riley shared some of his great polar bear

facts with me. How many polar bears do you think are left in the region? Only 20,000! The children are concerned about this and are now developing a really good understanding of how environments are affected. Year One have been exploring different ways to measure in Maths using standard and non-standard measurements. I was surprised to walk in and to hear that a giraffe could be 4 suitcases tall. The children were quick to tell me that this is a non-standard way of measuring and not necessarily the most accurate way to measure a giraffe. Down in Reception they continue to explore different texts and have been continuing with their hungry caterpillar theme. Of course they have moved on in the lifecycle and explored butterflies. They applied their mathematical skills and made beautiful symmetrical butterfly pictures with tissue paper.



Our home schoolers continue to impress us with their resilience and love of learning. Year 2 are following the story of The Firework Maker's Daughter and in Science are learning to be botanists. They learnt all about Kew Gardens and then went on a plant hunt in their own environment. Mrs Shirley says they have made great scientists and are using all of the correct language. Year 2 meet regularly on Teams and have had some fabulous quizzes and show and tell moments.

This week you have had the staffing letter for September. Whilst we would love to have our normal transition days it isn't possible. All of the teachers are making PowerPoints to share which you can keep looking at over the holidays. Mr Harwood who will teach Year 5 popped in to say hello from a social distance and Mrs Martin our new Year 1 teacher has also been in. They are super excited to see everyone and start at school. We welcomed Mrs Pauline Ward this week. She is a new SEN teaching assistant and has settled in really well. She says everyone has been really welcoming.

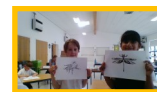
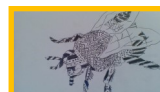
I hope you have loved the sunshine this week – it lifts the spirits. Have a good weekend.

*'Laughter is the sunbeam of the soul'* Thomas Mann

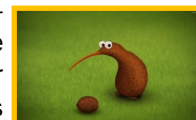
Mrs Humphriss

## News from Kiwis

Gurshaan and Alex from Kiwi B experimented with their own insect art in the style of Rosalind Monk.



What an imaginative and artistic tribe of kiwis we have! Did you know that 'tribe' is the correct collective noun for a group of kiwis? Over the last two weeks we have been creating our own new creatures by combining features of different existing animals. The kiwis also had great fun combining parts of the animals' names to name their new species! What do you think of Scarlett's Snatterfly?



In soaring temperatures on Thursday afternoon, the kiwi sculptors set to work coiling, rolling, pinching and shaping clay to produce wonderful 3D models of their creatures. Mrs. Lawson was so impressed with the kiwis' skill, patience, perseverance and enthusiasm. We cannot wait to see their creations when they have been painted and glazed. Continuing with the animal theme, in Maths lessons we have estimated the lengths of different animals and then compared and ordered their lengths. We were amazed to find out that the African elephant is 675cm long! We marked this length out in the classroom and worked out that this is equivalent to the height of about four and a half Rayleigh- Maes!



## Quiz Question:

How many kilogrammes (kg) do you think an adult African elephant weighs?

## Answers to last week's quiz questions:

Tin foil can either float or sink depending on the shape that it is

An orange with its skin on will float, but if you take the skin off it will sink. This is because there are lots of air pockets in the skin which help it to float.



## School Uniform Shop

The School Uniform Shop is now available to purchase Sweatshirts, Cardigans and Book Bags through the Parent Pay Portal.



There is also a link on the school website where the shop is located under the parent tab and school uniform.

# Spot Light on our Children

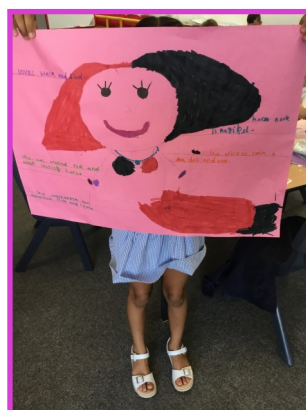
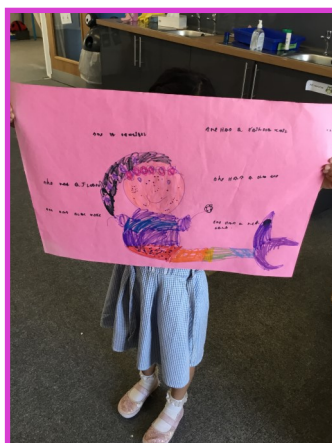
## News from Reception

This week Reception have been very busy learning all about the life cycle of a butterfly. We started the week by looking at the symmetrical patterns on butterfly wings and used paints to make our own butterfly pictures. In Maths we've learnt all about doubling. The weather has been so lovely and hot that we have enjoyed lots of outdoor fun; we especially enjoyed our PE lesson with Mr Stops where we practised our throwing techniques!



## News from Otters

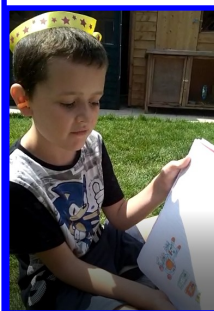
This week we have been learning about Brazilian myths and legends. We read about the Legend of Guarana and the legend of Vitoria-Regia. We then created our own



mythical creatures based on the ones we have learnt about. Here are some pictures of some of the creatures we created.

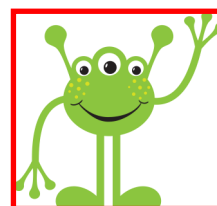
## News from Owls

This week Owls have been writing and recording news reports about their mysterious animals. Thank you Ben and Dominic for sharing with us your news about the Sniffler who has been sentenced to jail and Pikanic who has been zooming around town helping picking up litter!



## News From Squirrels

This week Squirrels have been challenged to try new skills, for example learning different ways to tie knots and then to use their skills to make a raft. They were also challenged to make a musical instrument. Continuing with their alien theme from last week, they wrote a persuasive leaflet encouraging people to visit the alien's land.



## News from Foxes

This week Foxes have been working hard following a range of on line lessons. We have had some great 'show and tell' sessions on Microsoft Teams. The children proudly showed their friends their favourite pieces of work. It has been great to virtually keep in touch via the Teams app, it is most certainly my favourite time of the week.



## Reading books drop off!

From the beginning of next week, there will be a box outside the school office for you to drop off any reading books you have borrowed from school. If we could please have these all back before we break up for the summer holiday it would be greatly appreciated.