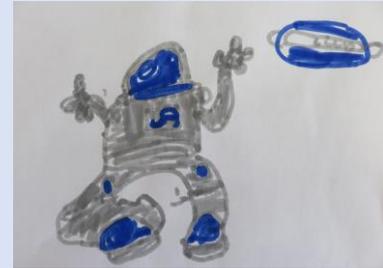
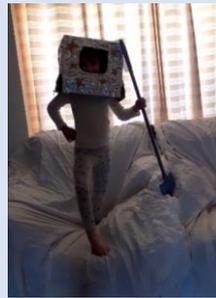


News from around the school

On Thursday of this week, we had some very unusual visitors in school and rather than children being part of online sessions, we had astronauts! It has been a week of rockets, moon landings and all things space for the children in Year 1.



It was great to see so many children at home also setting off for the moon so that everyone could meet up there!



Children both at home and in school used their imaginations to fly off to the moon and describe what they saw. They used their art and DT skills to create helmets and walkie talkies to help them on their adventure.

Mrs Powell

Next week is Mrs Powell's last week in school. As she has reached her third trimester, it is safer for her to be working from home until she starts her maternity leave.

Mrs Powell will still be delivering remote learning sessions and so children learning at home will be working with her for a number of weeks. Children in school will however be saying goodbye on Friday.

Mrs Helen Lynch will be working in Year 6 when Mrs Powell begins her formal maternity leave, but they will be starting some handover in the coming weeks.

Supporting wellbeing

Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children has never been as important as it is in the midst of a pandemic.

This week we were made aware of an [online resource](#) designed to offer parents and carers advice on how they can promote wellbeing and support mental health. We think their 10 top tips are really helpful.

If you feel you are struggling, please do reach out to us, or to other support agencies, who can offer help and a listening ear.

Thank-you from Mrs Laithwaite

I wanted to thank you for your kindness and generosity in the book voucher, which you gave me for my 'retirement'. What a perfect present! I intend to buy myself a new Bible with it (together with other books) and will forever remember that it was from you.

It has been such an enormous privilege to teach your wonderful children and indeed many of you and your brothers and sisters over the past thirty-three years...such an incredible privilege and honour and so many wonderful and special memories.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Although I have officially 'retired', in my heart I have not left The Blake, I don't think you ever do leave somewhere as special as this. I also sense God's prompting to further involvement, but I am not yet sure what form that will take. I am however continuing to pray for the whole school community, whether currently in school, or at home.

So, thank-you again, so much.

I am praying for strength for you and your families during this difficult time and that the love of Jesus will surround and protect you all.

With my love

Ali Laithwaite

Grief and bereavement

We are aware that at this time a number of our families are facing difficult and challenging circumstances, including the death of family members.

We would encourage you to access any of the organisations listed below, as they can offer you age-appropriate resources as well as support.

[Child Bereavement UK](#) (0800 028 8840) or email support@childbereavement.org

[Cruse Bereavement Care](#) (0808 808 1677) or email info@cruse.org.uk

[Grief Encounter](#) (0808 802 0111) or email contact@griefencounter.org.uk

[Hope Again](#) (0808 808 1677) or email hopeagain@cruse.org.uk

[Winston's Wish](#) (0808 802 0021) or email info@winstonswish.org

Please do also contact school staff to discuss any ongoing concerns, where this is helpful for you.

The Marriage Course

In our newsletter last week, we shared details of the Marriage Course, being run by St Mary's Church, Cogges.

If you want to join the course, which is suitable for anyone in a long-term relationship, it is not too late! The course will give you time to discuss things as a couple and explore both the highs and lows of life as a couple.

The next course starts on Monday 25th January and will run from 7.45 – 9.45pm, weekly for seven sessions. The course costs just £10 to join for which you will also receive guest manuals and a small goodie bag!

For more information and to sign up go to [ChurchSuite](#), or email Judith.

Quiz corner

1. How many bags of rubbish did Mr Hope turn out when he emptied the IT cupboard this week?
2. Which teacher led a music lesson this week including children in school and at home?!!
3. How many staff did it take to change the wheel on a member of staff's car this week?!

Last week's answers –

1. They all joined home learning last week!
2. 5 members of staff cycle to school regularly.
3. Remote Learning