

Executive Head Teacher – Mrs Lyssy Bolton Acting Head of School – Mrs Harriet Phillips

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The school office is open and you can contact school via the telephone if you need assistance

Our school latest news: <https://www.castlemead.wilts.sch.uk/news-dates/letters/>

Our Twitter feed: [@CastleMeadSch](https://twitter.com/CastleMeadSch)

Another fantastic week of learning opportunities for the children at Castle Mead, Year 6 are our year in focus this week and I am sure you will agree there is some super learning going on!

Please can I remind you, it is really important to arrive on time for drop off and pick up so we do not cause any unnecessary queuing or crowd. If you are early please can I remind you that you need to maintain social distancing for our community's safety. Thank you.



There has been a lot of discussion in the media this week about how hard home schooling is, a simple way to alleviate difficulties is routine. I know as a parent how hard it is to maintain a good routine when things are so different but it is really important for everyone that we try to take simple steps towards achieving this. Try to get bedtime back to a relatively normal time, as if the children were at school. Some of our Google Meet sessions are early and the children need to be ready to engage with their class and their teacher, so early to bed and getting up at normal school time can help, this gives everyone an opportunity to get up, feel awake, get dressed and have some breakfast, ensuring that we are tip top and ready to learn! I have heard of some people actually going out of the front door and walking down the street a little way, turning around and coming back

home as if arriving at school or work (I haven't tried this one, but it might help!) Try to make sure the environment is ready for work/learning. Have a comfortable space to make work easy. Have a set playtime/snack time then come back to learning and then the same at lunchtime. It is also really helpful to the children to tell them when 'school' has finished and to pack up as if they were at school. I don't know if any of those suggestions are of any help but rest assured we are thinking of you all and are really proud of all your efforts– it is not an easy job!

Warmest wishes

Mrs Phillips (Acting Head of School)



Stars of the week!



Reception: **Lena & Matilda**

Year 1: **Archie, Andrew & Amiyah**

Year 2: **Beau**

Year 3: **Chelsea & Cody**

Year 4: **Charlie C**

Year 5: **Cassie**

Year 6: **Klara**



Keeping in touch with Parents/Carers

We want to make sure you are kept up-to-date about what is happening in our schools, especially at a time when you can't come in to school and see us in person. The Mead Trust – as well as our individual schools – has a range of social channels that we post to, as well as the emails and text messages that we send out. If you use any of these platforms, then please follow / like us! We will be sharing updates, but also love to feature news and achievements from our families, so make sure you tag us so that we can share your posts with our wider community.

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/themeadtrust>

LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-mead-academy-trust/>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/themeadtrust>

Year 6 In Focus

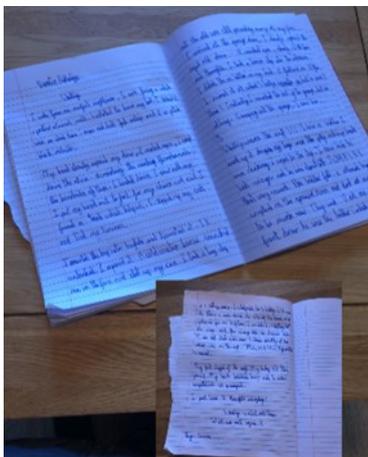
Year 6 have been working incredibly hard over the past few weeks both at school and online. We are really enjoying our morning Google Meets where we get to be together – our favourite task is definitely a Kahoots quiz. This term, we are learning all about Charles Darwin and evolution.

 The animal is buried.	 Soft parts like muscle start to decay.	 Sediments like mud compress into rock.
 Minerals underground replace the bone.	 The surface is worn away by erosion.	

We have also learnt all about fossils and Mary Anning.



We started the topic by pretending to be Charles Darwin and drawing lots of sketches. We also thought about how to classify animals.



SKELLIG

The sky was pitch black. It felt as if someone had tied a blindfold around my eyes. Blinking rapidly, my eyes adjusted to the dark. In the dark, the house seemed much eerier. Roof panels hanging limply, sagging doors, the floor hooded with mould. A piercing noise ran through my ear and down my spine: an owl. With a crash, I kicked down the door and the bleakness swallowed me whole.

Tripping over some wood, I stumbled over to the tea chest. Though it was heavy, I managed to heave it away just enough so that I could just make out the shape of his body. Skellig. His hair stream with dead bluebell. It was as if he had never moved. His voice cracked like old eggs trying to come back to life. "Hello Michael," he said. I tried to swallow but I was so overcome with fear that I choked. A ghost not human. The suit, the voice, the hair, face, wings everything seemed so familiar yet so unfamiliar. I went to turn away to go to the house but I stopped. I had come here for a reason.

"How did you get here?" I asked, just one of my many questions.

"Well, I could ask the same for you," he replied.

"My mum and dad thought it would be a fun 'adventure'!" I looked down and kicked around a can. "And you?"

"Well I cannot really recall but I remember my name."

I asked, "And is it?"

"Jonathan, Jonathan Myers," he replied looking at his yellow hands. Myers. Myers that name rang a bell.

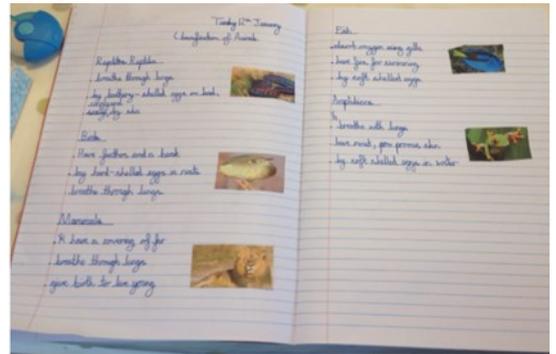
"Ernie Myers?"

"No," he said.

The darkness suddenly created a barricade between us. With a click, my torch created a dingy yellow glow. I shuddered nervously.

"See you soon," I walked off to get out of this awkward situation. As I went out, I had so many things on my mind but one that I should find his family. Brushing off the dust and hiding all evidence of me going. I got into bed thinking about Skellig!

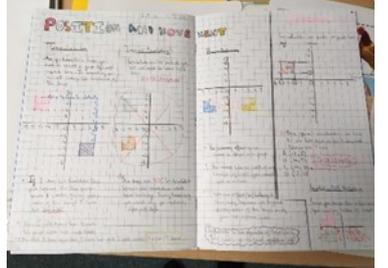
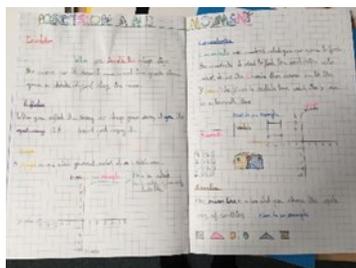
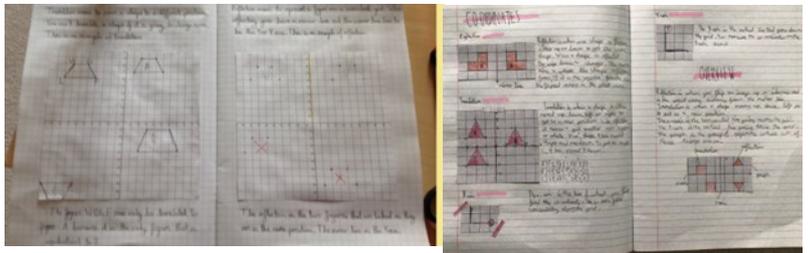
Our class text is Skelig, we have all written a missing chapter both at school and at home. We used our computing skills to publish via Google Class-



In maths, we have created some amazing double page



We have also been creating our own



Big Garden Bird Watch

How to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch

This year's event takes place on 29th, 30th & 31st January 2021.

To take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch, simply watch the birds in your garden for one hour at some point over the three days. Only count the birds that land, not those that fly over. Record the highest number of each bird species you see at any one time, not the total you see in the hour.

For more information and to submit your numbers please visit

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>



Family and Community Learning update

Are you a Parent/Carer struggling with the Health and Wellbeing of you family? If the answer is yes, Family and Community Learning can help.

We have some fantastic courses coming up in the very near future to help support. Most of these courses are single sessions but we also offer Family Wellbeing courses as a more in-depth course over 5 weeks.

Dates and Times are below:

08/02	10:00-12:00	Helping My Child to Prepare Positively for Change
10/02	10:00-12:00	Helping My Child Build Concentration and Resilience
15/02	10:00-12:00	Helping My Child with Anxiety and Worry
22/02	10:00-12:00	Family Wellbeing - 5 week course 1 X session a week
01/03	10:00-12:00	Helping My Child with Anxiety and Worry
08/03	10:00-12:00	Helping My Child Build Concentration and Resilience
15/03	10:00-12:00	Helping My Child to Prepare Positively for Change
22/03	10:00-12:00	Family Wellbeing - 5 week course 1 X session a week

We can also offer the flexibility to adapt these courses to meet the needs of your parents and carers so please do not hesitate to contact us

at: familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk We will be happy to talk about what may work for the specific needs of your school and it's community.

Google Meet Daily Lessons

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
1:00 – 1:30	11:30 – 12:00	11:00 – 11:30	10:30 – 11:00	10:00 – 10:30	9:30 – 10:00	9:00 – 9:30

If you have any problems accessing any of our online learning systems, please do not hesitate to contact the school office