



Dear Parents/Carers,

What an unbelievably fast week! It is great to have our classrooms full again and to see pupils enjoying face-to-face teaching. As a school, we are incredibly impressed with the way in which pupils have embraced routines again so quickly – it's as if they've never been away! Online Parent Evenings have been set for **Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th March** and details about how to book appointments will be communicated early next week.

Earlier this week, we sent a link via Parentmail asking for your thoughts and opinions regarding remote learning. Thank you very much to those of you who have already responded; if you haven't yet, could we ask that you spend a couple of minutes completing it so that we have as many responses as possible in order to drive improvement.

Have a lovely weekend!

Lindsay Hamilton

Hello!

As a school, we're always aiming to strengthen our partnerships with neighbouring schools to ensure our pupils receive the best education possible. At the moment, we are working closely with Haydon Bridge High School, looking closely at transition. The school welcomed a new Headteacher in January, who would like to introduce himself to you all.



My name is Michael Smith and I am the recently appointed Headteacher at Haydon Bridge High School. I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself and say how excited I am, not just about the rapid improvements that we are continuing to make at HBHS, but also to join the much wider supportive community that forms our Haydon Bridge Partnership.

I know that many of you will have long standing relationships with HBHS, whilst some of you will not have had children go through the full age range yet. We are working closely with all the schools in the partnership, but particularly with Bellingham Middle School to make sure that the work we both do in Year 7 & 8 ensures that students are Year 9 ready for joining us at HBHS. Mrs Hamilton and I are committed to working together and have already begun discussing how we can further improve our work together.

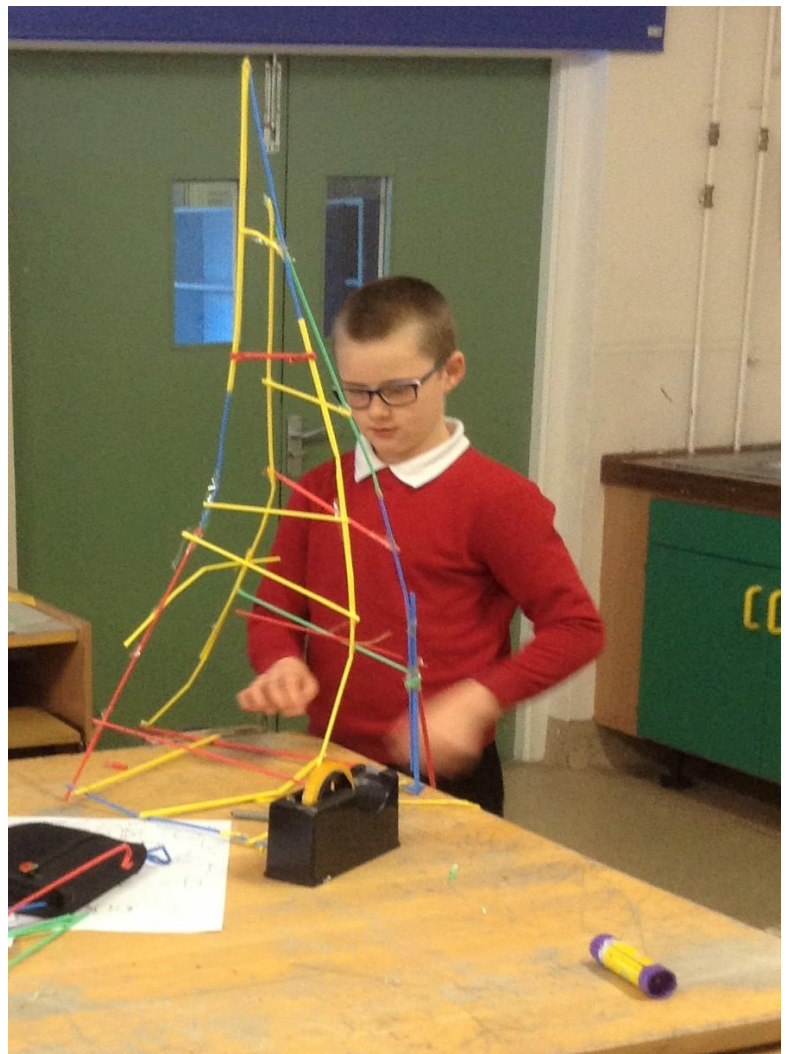
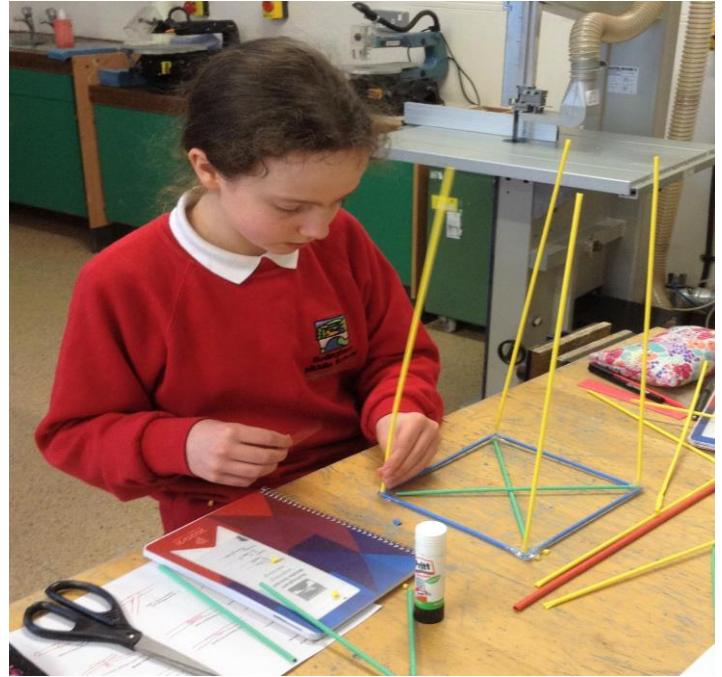
I also know that, in the past, some of you may have chosen to send your older children to schools other than HBHS at the end of their time at Bellingham Middle School. I hope in the future that through our continual improvements at HBHS, and the work the schools do in collaboration, that HBHS becomes the natural school of choice for you and your children.

I look forward to meeting you and talking to you when I visit Bellingham Middle School and will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.



Engineering Experiments!

Year Six responded very impressively in ADT to the challenge to "think like an engineer". Superb concentration, independence and commitment to building structures using straws.





Poetry Perfection!

Year 5 have been studying a particular poem by Kit Wright this week called, 'The Magic Box'. Rather than objects, the box is filled with magical moments, experiences and fantastic events. Having studied the language and structure of the poem, pupils then thought about someone special in their own lives who they could create a 'magic box' for and created poetry in the style of Kit Wright. As you can see, the results were rather...magical!

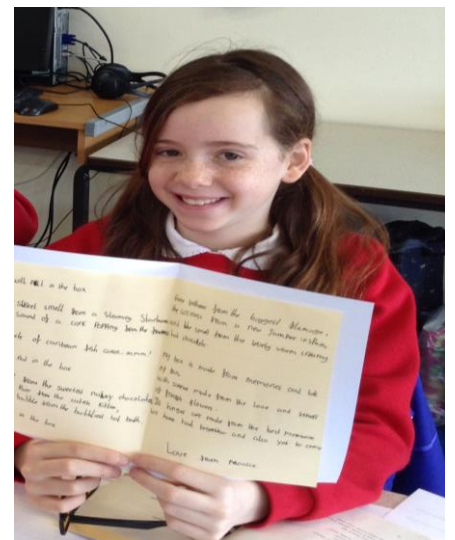


I will put in the box
The warmest sunshine from a lazy day in Spain,
The brightest yellow from the tallest tulips,
Endless walks along Boat Road.

My box is made from
Your everlasting kindness and care.
Its hinges are your loving ways.
Ethan

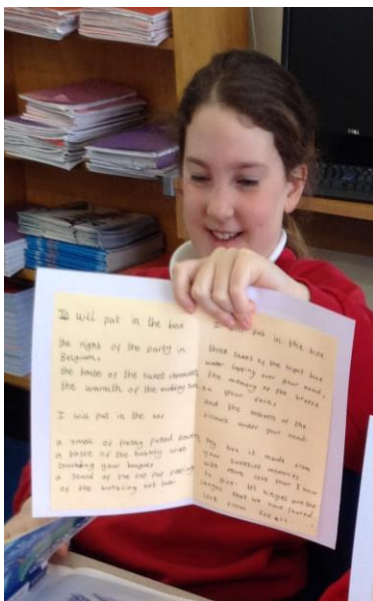


I will put in the box
The sweet smell from a steaming Starbucks,
The coziness of a new jumper,
The taste of the finest fishcakes...mmmm!
Maizie



I will put in the box
The warmth of midday
sunshine,
The smell of freshly-picked
flowers,
The sound of pop-pop-
popping from a bubbling hot
tub.

My box is made from the sweetest memories,
With more love than I have to give.
Its hinges are the laughs that we have shared.
Zoe





Thank you!



We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to our local greengrocer, George Jennings, who has kindly donated a bunch of daffodils for each one of our Y5 pupils to take home today for a very special day on Sunday! We're sure they'll bring lots of smiles...

Dance Club



It will be great to welcome Molly, our visiting dance teacher, back to school. Molly will be running weekly after school sessions starting on Thursday 15th April from 3:30pm until 4:30pm. Hopefully, this will be open to all pupils with sessions being held outside and a separate, designated area for each different year group. Further details will follow nearer the time in-line with updated guidance.

COVID Testing



Our KS3 pupils have been fantastic this week with their on-site COVID tests and deserve high praise! The whole process has gone very smoothly due to their mature, sensible approach and we've had both year groups all tested before 9:30am. Monday 15th March will be the last time pupils are tested on-site as next week they will be bringing a test kit home to continue the twice-weekly testing. More details will be sent out on Monday, along with the kits.

Go Bright for the Fight!



Muscular Dystrophy UK is the charity for the 70,000 people living with muscle-wasting conditions in the UK. These conditions are very rare, affecting just over one in every 1,000 people. Since 1959, the charity have been supporting families living with muscle-wasting conditions. They provide vital information, advice, resources and support for people with these conditions, their families and the professionals who work with them. We intend to support this charity on **Friday 26th March** with competitions, cake bakes and a 'bright clothes' day. This is a cause close to our hearts as two of our pupils,

Angus and Robert, have muscular dystrophy. During lockdown, the boys thought of different fundraising ideas and have come up with lots of great activities for us to do throughout the day. Being the kind, caring community we are, we know everyone will get behind us and it will be a great success. Further details will follow next week.