

# Merton Junior School Newsletter

Wednesday 27th January 2021

No. 4



(01256) 326573



admin.office@merton-jun.hants.sch.uk



Romsey Close, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 9HB



Merton Junior School



Merton\_Junior



[www.mertonjuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.mertonjuniorschool.co.uk)

*'Be wise, together we succeed'*



## We've got this!!!

Wow, what a different start to the year it has been—this wasn't what any of us expected but staff, children and parents have all got themselves stuck into the Remote Learning amazingly well as it continues to adapt as the weeks go by.

The work that is being completed at home is fantastic and it's great to see the children's smiling faces in the morning at their daily registration, and again throughout the day as they attend live sessions with their teachers and support staff. The staff in school speak positively about the communication that they are receiving from children and parents at home and the interaction that they are having. Thank you for working with us as our provision develops and improves—it's tricky to get it just right for everyone so we are doing our best to accommodate everybody in the most efficient way possible.

Please continue to speak to the Year Group teams if you are having any issues at all with accessing or submitting any work, staff are more than happy to help and are on hand during the school day to answer any queries.

From the parents who are juggling working from home as well as their children's Remote Learning, to the parents who are working on the frontline or as Key Workers where work is even busier than before, to the parents who are furloughed and have the added financial pressures—you've got this and we are here for you. If you need anything — a chat, advice, support, please pick up the phone and we will help in anyway that we can, even if it's just to listen. We are in this together. We've got this.

Mrs Kayleigh Reading (Headteacher)

## Staff Testing

You may have heard in the news that testing in Primary settings is being rolled out by the NHS and the Government. We are told that 1 in 3 people who test Positive for Covid-19 do not have any symptoms. We are taking part in this programme and staff are opting in—the aim is that this is investigating whether there are staff members in schools (this programme doesn't involve children) who do not have symptoms and could therefore be carriers and be spreading Covid-19, without knowing. Staff will be taking an LFD (Lateral Flow Device) twice a week. If they receive a positive result via this test then they are to then book a Covid-19 test (PCR test—Polymerase Chain Reaction) via the NHS to validate this result. The idea is that staff can then self-isolate before potentially passing the virus on. Thank you to the staff for embracing this!



## Numbers in school

Our numbers in school are creeping up. If you are considering contacting us to request a place (for a Vulnerable child, child with EHCP or a child of a Key Worker) but are able to look after your child/ren at home then we would very much appreciate it if you were able to. Keeping the numbers down reduces the risk to you and your families as well as our school and local community. Thank you for your support and understanding. If you are having problems with the work, or accessing the work from home, then please speak to the Year Group teams (via Google Classrooms or the Year Group's email addresses) who will be happy to support or adjust their provision to accommodate your child's needs in the best way possible.



## Reopening of Schools

The Prime Minister has announced that he plans to review the Lockdown on the 22nd February and will decide whether schools will open from the 8th March. He has promised a gradual and phased approach from this date. As soon as we hear what this will look like we will communicate this with you, but we believe this review to be dependent on data at this stage and the roll out of the vaccination.

# Internet Safety

We have booked some Internet Safety Workshops with Openview Education which will be running in school and will be able to roll out to all children at home for them to log into as well. As part of this package, we have also purchased some resources for parents too —run by and presented by experts to educate us on the vastness that the internet has become. Mrs Sidey will be getting in touch with you regarding this with details on how to log in—once you have details, you can then access the resources at any time that is convenient for you and we have 3 months to view the material, from the 9th February. With your children accessing the internet even more than normal at this current time, I'm sure that you will agree that ensuring the internet safety of our pupils is even more prevalent and important to ensure that they are not at risk.



## Newsletters

The newsletters are going to take a slightly different spin as school isn't quite the same as it normally is and I will be celebrating the successes of work in both school and at home and letting you know our award winners too as I believe at this tricky time we need to focus on the positives as much as possible—we've got this! We will also be celebrating birthdays that have taken place since the last newsletter. I aim to get these out to you, including any updates, every two weeks, whilst we are in Lockdown.



# REMOTE EDUCATION 10 TOP TIPS FOR CHILDREN

Remote education ensures continuous learning outside the classroom. For students, it's the perfect way to ensure they still get the education they need, despite not being at school. However, it also requires a level of discipline and careful planning. That's why we've created this guide to help pupils understand different aspects of remote education and to support them in ensuring their experience is as safe and secure as it can be.

## 1. TREAT REMOTE EDUCATION THE SAME AS CLASSROOM LEARNING

Despite being at home, it's important to remember the same rules apply as being in the classroom, particularly in respect of behavior and conduct. Focus on learning and don't get distracted by your surroundings.



## 3. TAKE REGULAR SCREEN BREAKS

Whilst remote education might be an exciting experience to begin with, having prolonged periods of time in front of a screen isn't always healthy. Remember to have regular screen breaks where possible and in your spare time, try to get some fresh air and enjoy other activities away from electronic devices.



## 2. USE CLASSROOM LANGUAGE

If you are encouraged to communicate through emails and online messages, don't use shorthand text speak and write as though you would speak in class. Remember to be respectful and polite and avoid posting negative comments or spamming the chat.



## 4. ALWAYS CONDUCT VIDEO LEARNING IN AN OPEN SPACE AT HOME

To get the best experience from remote education, it's important to create the right environment around you. Try to set up a mock 'classroom desk' at home in an open space so parents can supervise if necessary. Avoid bedrooms as this could be considered inappropriate.



## 5. ONLY COMMUNICATE THROUGH APPROVED SCHOOL PORTALS AND PLATFORMS

It's important that you send messages and any pictures or images required for class through approved school channels, such as internal learning portals or approved platforms. This will help to keep your personal information safe and secure.



## 6. STICK TO TEACHER RULES AND GUIDELINES AROUND REMOTE EDUCATION

Your school should issue you with guidance on remote education and the rules to follow. Always maintain classroom behaviour and try to remember that you are in a learning environment and not a social setting.



## 7. DRESS IN SCHOOL UNIFORM

As part of your learning environment, try to maintain school uniform/dress. This will help as part of replicating classroom learning in the home. Try to avoid wearing anything too casual as this could be deemed inappropriate for school.



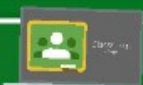
## 8. DON'T SHARE PASSWORDS OR OTHER SENSITIVE INFORMATION

In order to begin your online lessons or to gain access to learning materials, you may be provided with login details and passwords. In the same way you keep your personal details private, always keep these safe and never share them with others.



## 9. DON'T USE SCHOOL PLATFORMS TO DISCUSS PERSONAL MATTERS.

It's important to keep your school communication channels separate from your own personal communication with friends and family. Don't be tempted to engage in casual discussions or send images, videos or links via official school apps or platforms that aren't associated with your learning.



## 10. LOOK AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

Remote education ultimately means working alone and missing out on daily social interaction with your friends. If you ever feel frustrated, low or sad, it's important to discuss how you feel with your parents or your teacher. Keeping in touch with friends over the phone or on social media can also help to keep your spirits up.





# Year 3

**Congratulations and well done to the award winners in Year 3 so far...**

**Horse Chestnut Class—Cody and Emily W!**

**Oak Class—Abigail and Emma!**



**Maddison  
enjoyed our  
French day...**



**Joey enjoyed  
tasting French  
food!**

**Scarlett has  
been doing  
some amaz-  
ing practi-  
cal Maths...**



**Amara ed-  
ited a pic-  
ture to  
make it  
look like  
she's visit-  
ed the  
Eiffel Tow-  
er!**

# Year 3



Year 3 recreated Monet's famous art work—the 'Waterlilies'.

Happy birthday to Lincoln—we hope you enjoyed your birthday celebrations!



# Year 4

**Congratulations and well done to the award winners in Year 4....**

**Lime Class—Alyssa, Jaia and Marek**

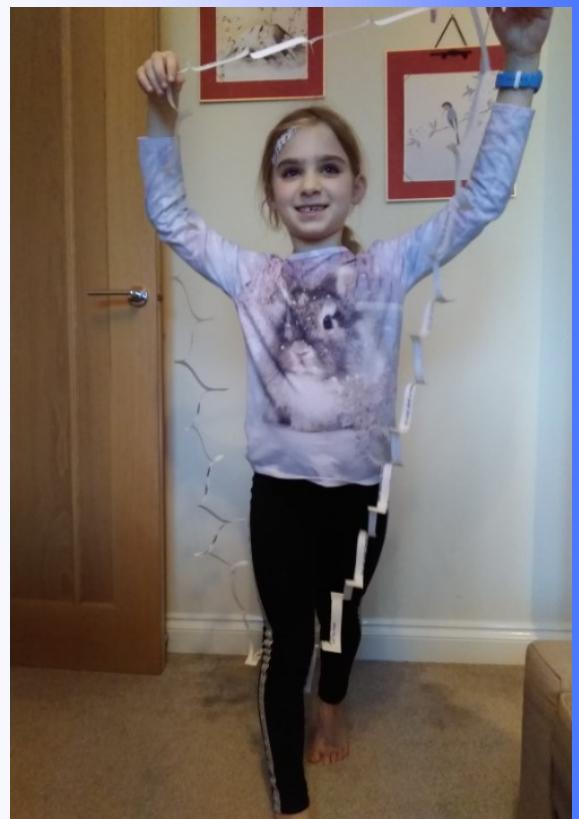
**Maple Class—Lily, Harley and Freya**

**Sycamore Class—Miley, Harry Wr and Doha**



**Brody  
made a  
fantastic  
Roman  
shield!**

**Heidi has  
been busy  
with her sci-  
ence investi-  
gations....**

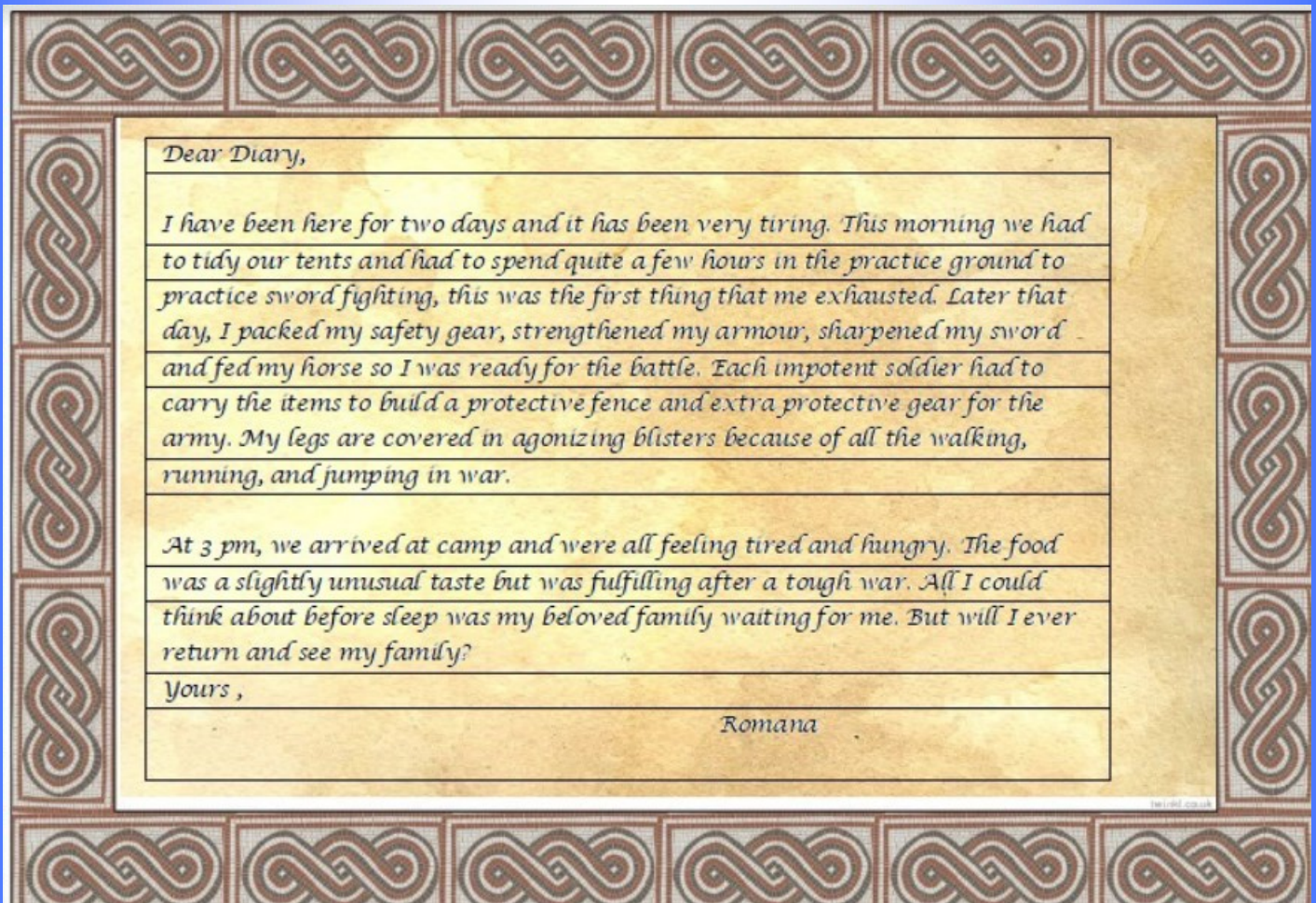


**Happy birthday to Olivia, Keeli, Lelan, Oliver,  
Maison, Harley, Kaitlyn, Lacey and Doha!**





# Year 4



Dear diary

Today was tough leaving my beloved family to join the Roman legion I am feeling very upset about this and a little nervous to be starting this new adventure.

I am not used to my new way of life, early this morning we was all woken and told to get packing I had to listen or would face a beating. We all have to carry our own equipment this includes metal armour, spare clothes, food and a cooking pot. This is very heavy my friend Tyler reckons around 30kg. Also, my legs are covered in painful blisters.

We've finally arrived at camp its already 4pm but sadly still have more tasks to do like putting up our tent and preparing the evening meal. The food is disgusting and is served cold. I am very tired now but still have to clean and sharpen my equipment before I can get any rest.

I finally managed to get some sleep. Sadly, we have to head to battle tomorrow, I have a lot of questions. How am I going to cope? Am I strong enough to kill someone? Am I going to survive this? I better get some more rest now I have a long march ahead.

Kayden Solider of Legion

**Syeda has written an excellent diary entry using appropriate features of the genre.**

**Kayden has written a fabulous diary entry as a Roman soldier.**



# Year 5

Congratulations to our award winners in Year 5 so far....

Elm Class — Florence, Mariah, Dami, Max and Lily

Ash Class — Taylor M, Dominik and Angel

Holly Class— Logan, Sophie and Jamie T

*Dear Diary,*

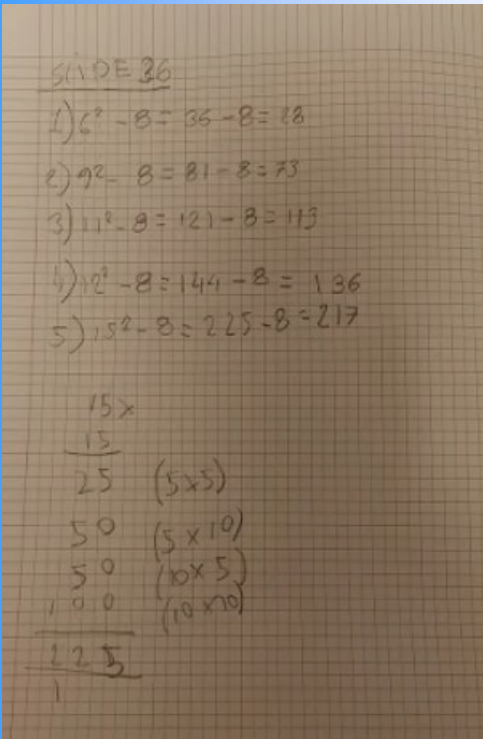
*Today started like any other day. We woke up. Peeled potatoes. Listened to Jack (one of Mr.Müller's piano students). Then Mollie. We both leaned against the grimy, wooden shelves. At that very moment, Michael made one of the beautiful, pearl and golden tea trays, made of china, come crashing to the ground making a terrorising, thunderous noise.*

*When all the soundful, long and majestic lessons had finished - it was already late - Mr.Müller opened the door in the floorboard and spoke to us. I thought that he would be angry about the broken china (as it now had become) but what we heard was happiness in his voice, telling us to come upstairs! When Michael told him about the broken plates and cups he replied saying he never really liked that one in the first place.*

*When we did come upstairs Michael and I started to drool. We sat down and said our praises to the wonderful feast that Mrs Müller had presented us in the basket. It's from your parents, is what she had said, as if that explained everything. When we had taken our gifts out—one for me, one for Michael and one for the Müllers (a wine bottle, in fact) Mrs Müller told Mr Müller to put on some music while she got the food. "Hall of the mountain king by Grieg" Mr Müller vocalized. Suddenly, an ear-piercing knock made me and Michael nearly jump out of our skin with fright. As a subsequence of the knocking, Mr Müller halted the majestic dance of the beautiful, bright flame that once pirouetted on the lithe, pale and melting wax candles that were situated on the embroidered, golden Menorah, with a simple blow. Following the example of Mrs Müller clearing the delicious Hanukah food, me and my brother frantically snatched the gifts from the table*

Dominik has used some stunning figurative language within this diary entry to conjure up a clear image in his reader's mind—well done, Dominik!

# Year 5



Dami has worked hard to develop his skills around the expanded method in Maths...

Happy birthday to Nathaniel, Muhammad-Areeb, Logan, Jan, Zeynep, Louie-Jai, Olivia, Constance, Abigail, Radiya and Ella!!



An intriguing first paragraph to Harmony's diary entry and a super comparison of propaganda posters, also from Harmony....

The message for the second is don't talk about the war because enemies might be in disguise.

It was important because if they overheard the attack plans they will put a bigger defence knowing every move.

The message for the third is always carry a gas mask around with you.

It was important because no one knew when a chloride gas bomb would come down.

The message for the first is women who do not have a job of looking after children have to come and work in factories.

It was important because they could help make attack planes and more for the army.

These posters compare to today because due to the covid situation, you are expected to wear a mask similar to bringing a gas mask with you or don't spread lies about covid / don't give information about the war. We still advertise jobs on posters like they did during the war. But we don't normally use posters as we have TVs, Radios and more electronics.

Dear diary,  
I am writing to you with dim lighting so I apologise if this looks scruffy. My hands are trembling from fear worrying if we shall be caught.

We began our usual day. Mother gave me permission to play with Sophia, we came home but mother denied her coming in. She sent me packing my belongings. She said that we were going into hiding.



# Year 6

Congratulations to our award winners in Year 6 so far....

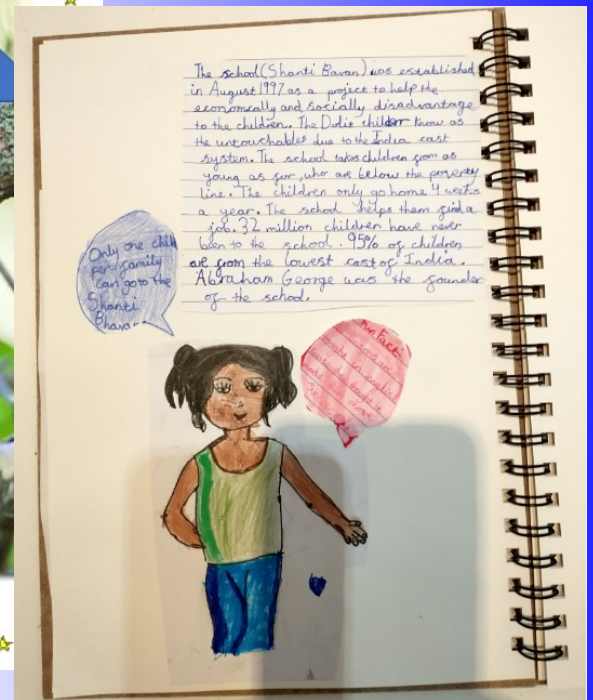
Billy, Bradley, Ruby, Olivia B, Maisie & Albie.



THANK YOU, YEAR 6 TEAM

For all of the Year 6 team  
for providing us work in  
this tough time and  
making sure that people  
in school are safe (and  
keeping it fun!! 😊)

Alice W produced this fantastic, owl-themed poster (to match our school logo) to say thank you to her teachers—thank you, Alice, this is very thoughtful and clever!



Albie recorded and uploaded a great news report with fantastic articulation and brilliant dramatization—well done, Albie!

Gabriella produced a super piece of writing which was very well illustrated as well...



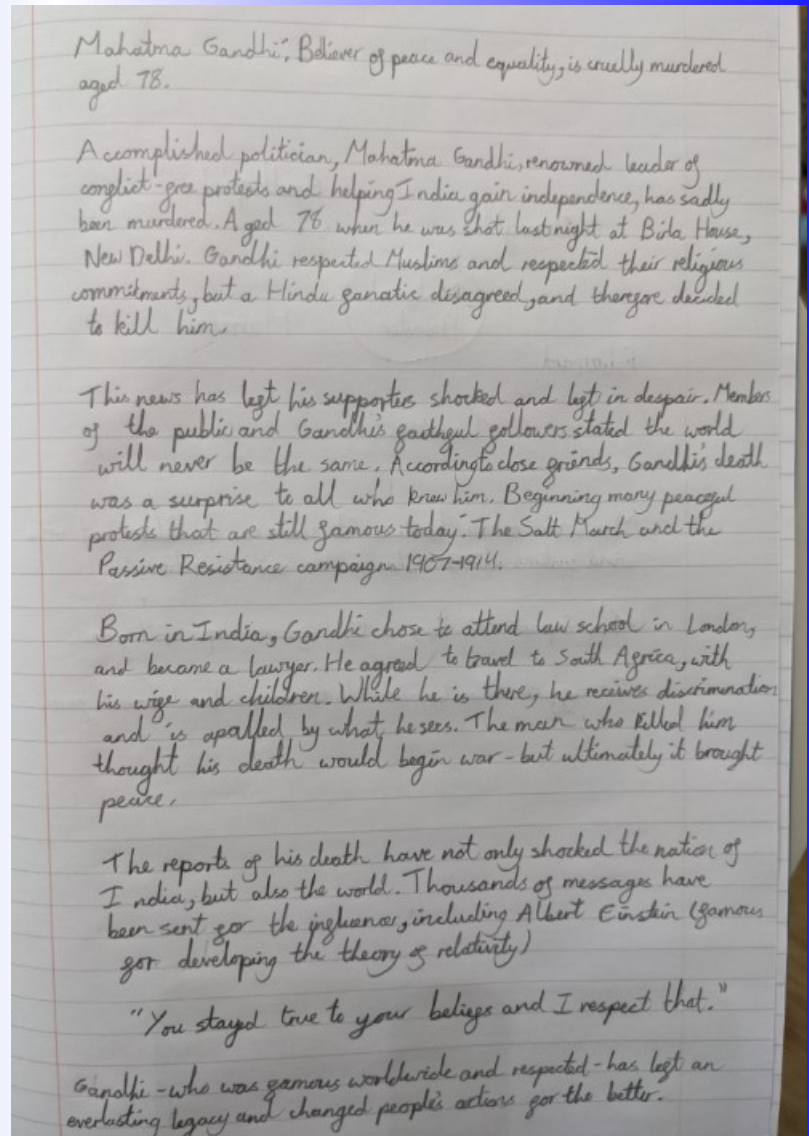
# Year 6

Poppy has produced a brilliant biography about Gandhi—with such beautiful handwriting too...

Maryam wrote this as her very well-written opening sentence to her biography about Gandhi....

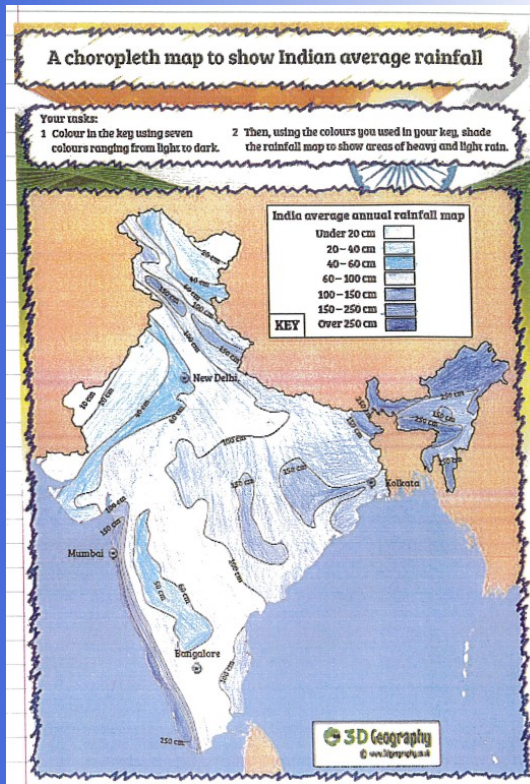
*Indian lawyer, political ethicist and anti-colonial nationalist, Mahatma Gandhi: also remembered as India's president of the Indian National Congress, died on January 30th 1948, only being 78 years old.*

Well done, Maryam!

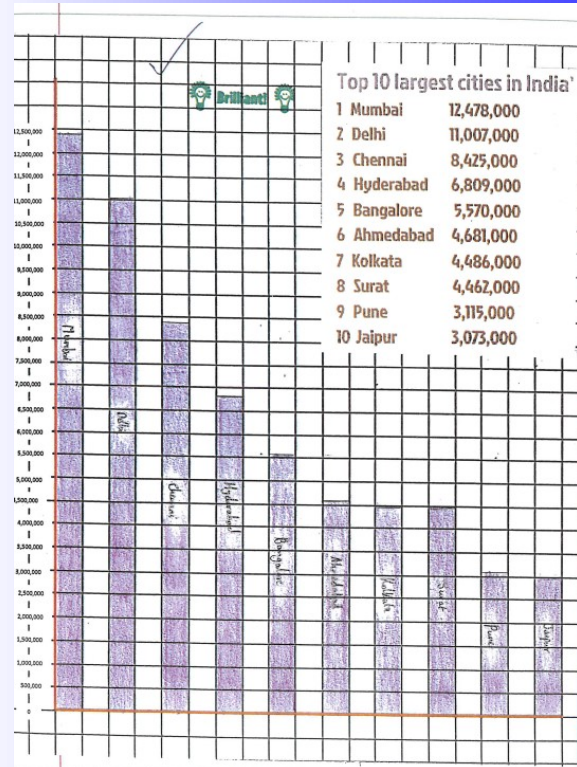


Olivia has created her own super 3D map of India to demonstrate the difference in landscape across the country.

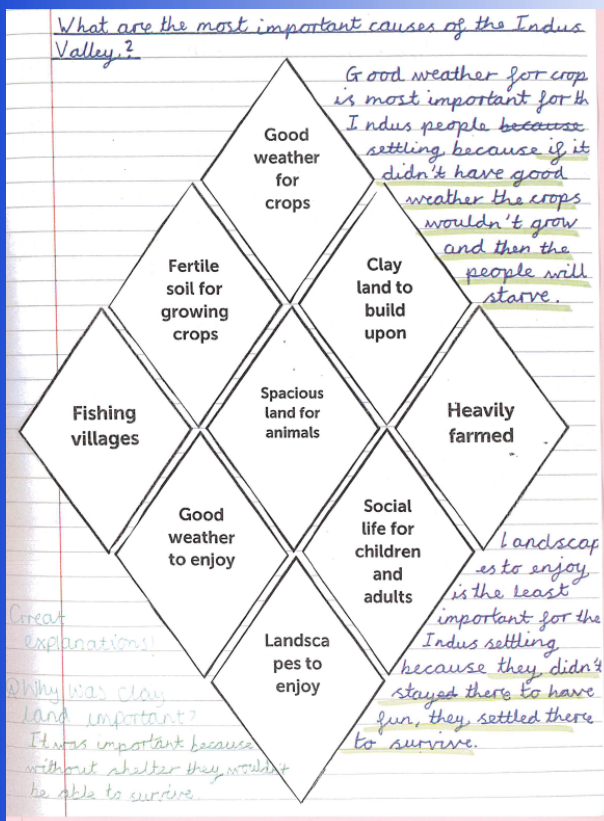
# Year 6



Abbie has completed a choropleth map to show Indian rainfall.



Sasha has created a bar graph which shows the populations of the different cities in India.



Lulu has explained her choices for her decisions in her Diamond 9 about the causes of the Indus Valley.

Happy birthday to Elesha, Sidney, Jenna, Dominik, Eliza, Filip, Asri and Poppy!

