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## Staff News

Congratulations go to Dr. Smye who welcomed a new baby daughter to his family last month. There were more celebrations in the Maths department just a few days later when Mrs Dunbar also welcomed her baby daughter to the world. Mrs Dunbar will now be on maternity leave.

## What a Sight!

How funny to arrive at school one day to see sheep had moved onto the fields. At least they were keeping the grass in shape!



Arden is part of Arden Multi Academy Trust: Chief Executive Officer, Mr M Murphy and Executive Headteacher, Mr D Burgess

# ad altiora news

ISSUE 33

SUMMER TERM 1 2020

## Into the Unknown

I would like to begin by saying a huge thank you to all of our students and parents for their hard work and resilience over this past half term. It has been incredibly difficult for all concerned but we have been delighted with the support and encouraging messages we have received along the way. We are so impressed with the work that has been produced by our students and this newsletter goes some way to highlight just a little taster.

I would also like to extend this thank you to all of the Arden staff who have adapted, learnt quickly and endeavoured to create the best possible online learning for students in amongst their own personal challenges. I have been delighted with the way our staff have adjusted to this new way of learning. We have been working hard to send out more interactive lessons and deliver live lessons where possible. We will continue to develop this next term.

There continue to be lots of mixed messages and uncertainty ahead of us. We will always act in the best interest of our students and staff and will communicate with you as we move through the next half term. As ever, we can only do it effectively by all working together.

Thanks once again for all you do to support your children and us as a school. Have a fabulous half term. Stay safe.

Mr Warwood, Associate Headteacher

## Happy Crafting Competition

A huge thank you to all students who submitted work for our 'happy crafting' competition. A wide variety of entries were received and we were impressed with the quality of work submitted and the stories behind the entries.

We are happy to announce the winners are as follows:

*Best art: Jessica Bray*

*Best craft: Daisy Ellis*

*Best baking/cooking: Harry Johnson*

Well done to our winners, and to all who took part, Miss Guest and Mr Carter



*Harry's cooking*



*Jessica's artwork*

*Special mentions also go to the following students for their impressive work:*



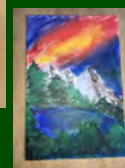
*Daisy's craft*



*Beth Sibbing*



*Nel Connors*



*Amelie Davies*



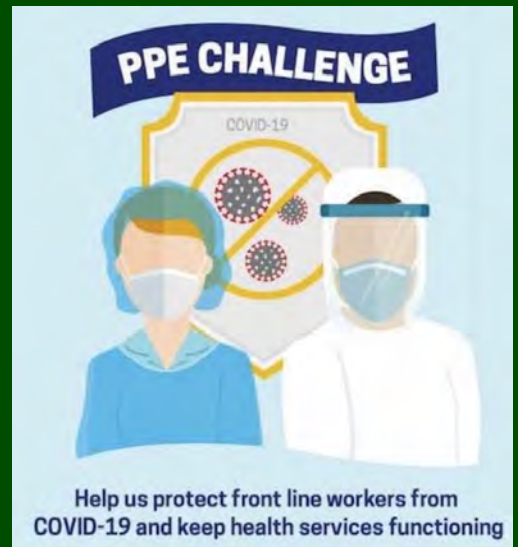
*Ethan Sheasby*

# Rising to the PPE Challenge

As you will all be aware, many health workers have faced challenges in relation to PPE equipment and the Arden family have been doing what we can to help. Since lockdown the Design Technology department has been busy manufacturing and distributing face visors (over 3000 in total!), medical scrubs and face masks. This equipment has been distributed to hospitals, local GP surgeries, nursing and care homes throughout the area. The response from the recipients has been humbling and we are just glad to have been of some assistance.

This could not have been done without the provision of materials by local companies and the volunteered time out of hours by all of the DT staff. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed for their support.

Mr Eades



*At Lyndon Croft Care Centre we were greeted by an ex-Arden student, Ethan Wigley (above), who was delighted to collect the order from his former school.*

## Fundraising

In our last newsletter we mentioned the fundraising efforts of Year 7 student Toby Yan who has been raising money by climbing his stairs. We were delighted to hear of more charity challenges being completed by our students in these difficult times. Here are a couple of examples:

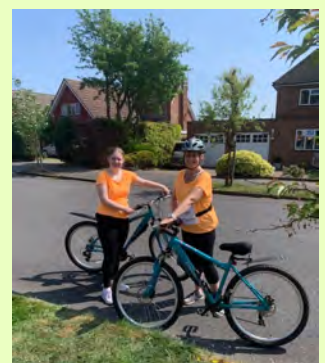
Arthur Wilson (Y7) and his brother Fred (9 years old) have completed a 1000 penalty challenge between them (500 each). The challenge took them about 5 hours and they have raised over £1400. How fantastic.

Charlotte Whitehill (Y10) has completed a cycling challenge as part of the UK's '26 Challenge' by cycling in excess of 26km on the local roads. Charlotte has been raising money for Shine Youth which is a charity providing 1:1 pastoral

care support to young people who are struggling to cope with loss experienced as a result of family separation and/or bereavement. Charlotte has raised over £1000 for this very worthwhile cause.

Year 10 Student Jessie Humby has also been making scrub bags for NHS workers as protocol now requires the staff to put their worn scrubs in the bag before washing the entire bag plus contents to limit the spread of infection.

Well done to these students and all others who have been supporting charitable causes at this time. We are very proud of you all.





# VE Day Celebrations

As part of the nationwide celebrations for the 75th anniversary of VE Day, students across all year groups were set some commemorative tasks for their history lessons. We were thrilled with what they came up with from cakes to poems and it was great to hear all about the local activities which took place. Here is just a small selection.



Military ammunitions truck which paid a visit to one local street party. How amazing!



## Celebration and Reflection by Sam Hawkins

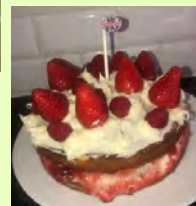
The time has come,  
Tell your dad tell you mum  
Everyone is beginning to celebrate here,  
Victory in Europe is very near.

The second run of fighting is about to be done,  
Lets celebrate victory if you pardon the pun,  
Years of hard fighting and stalemate, it was not so fun,  
But here's for a better future for everyone.

Lives were lost,  
Many in fact,  
Our heroes, the ones who we backed,  
But we will worship the ones who played the cost.

We shall never forget the price they paid,  
Yes let's celebrate but don't let them fade,  
They should be in your memories, your thoughts, your dreams,  
Never forget their battle field screams.

They paid the ultimate sacrifice,  
Living in the trenches surrounded by mice,  
Yes lets have a huge celebration,  
Yes let's all have a party with the Nation.  
But never forget what we lost,  
Father, Uncle, Nephew, Brother,  
Leaving behind a devastated Aunt, Sister, mother,  
Never forget Victory's cost.



Mr Hussey and Miss Matthews commemorated VE Day by making a tank for their cats!



## VE Day Inspired English Work

After studying some of their GCSE poems, I set my year ten class the challenge to write a poem commemorating V.E. Day. They were given an already published poem to use as inspiration and they each chose one line from it to use in their own creation. They also watched video footage of V.E. Day celebrations in 1945 to begin to understand the atmosphere of that day. They then chose a specific perspective to write from, whether that be a soldier, a factory worker, a child in a street party or someone simply enjoying a cup of tea! All of the poems that were written would not look out of place in a published anthology! They will all definitely be on display in our classroom when we return to school but for now, here is a selection from the class. Well done Year 10!

Mr Lenton

### Ryan McCourt

They gave their lives so we might live in freedoms sweet domain  
We celebrate today in a huge parade,  
But, I feel as though I'm imprisoned in a chain,  
My heart shattered, no tears left to cry, I feel a big shade.

My ice cold veins swallow me from within,  
Everyone telling me to celebrate the 'big win'  
And I should of course, no more blood,  
However, I can't seem to forget my two sons that stood

Looking around these crowded streets, smiles, happiness, a  
tremendous feast,  
I see families reunited north, south, west and east,  
Don't read a book by its cover?  
Well I'm an open book, I've lost my two sons and my lover.

### Anonymous

I didn't really understand it when the war was going on,  
But now my father's home, the celebrations have begun!  
I hear them in the kitchen, all excited that we've won,  
I hear: "Thank god the war has ended; finished; over; done!"

Parties in the streets, there's so much laughter everywhere,  
Bunting in every corner, there's so much food to share!  
Overwhelmed by all the darkness, now the sun has risen high,  
Like ice has thawed, like night has passed, now there's nothing in  
the sky!

I didn't notice much back then, the bleakness of our lives  
But now it's going back to normal, I'm so thrilled that I could cry!  
I didn't really understand it when the war was going on  
But now I do! There's just one thing I need explained...

Why are so many crying on this exciting day?  
Why does my mum still look upset, like she has something to say?  
But that's the only thing that I don't get, I hope that I'll learn today!  
Also, where's my older brother, did he miss his train?

### Madeleine Van De Ven-Neade

Goodbye to World War 2 and goodbye to all the pain,  
Now let us raise our glasses, topped with champagne.  
Raise them for the doctors, who healed and treated us well,  
And raise them for our soldiers, who now have many stories to tell.

Let's tear down all our curtains, that kept the light at bay,  
And dance upon the cobbled streets from midnight to midday.  
We hang our bunting high, bearing red and blue and white,  
And think about our futures, so great and oh so bright.

We no longer hear the sirens or shells that keep us awake,  
But the laughter of our people, all stuffed with tea and cake.  
The sky is no longer lit with intimidating fighter planes,  
But the glistening stars of the evening, to free us from that chain.

Let's hold our children close and thank God that here they stay,  
And think about our brothers, in heaven, far away.  
Just look upon the city, each face is filled with glee,  
England and her allies will remain forever free.

### Anonymous

My hands are no longer being put to the test,  
finally, we have time to rest.  
The lights are on in every town, such a brilliant sight to see,  
but first celebrations are in order, forget just drinking tea.

Shouts and cheers echo the streets,  
As loud as the airplanes that will no longer pass by in fleets.  
I opened the factory doors out wide,  
Hundreds of smiling faces were by my side.

My crew who had been my family for years,  
didn't hesitate to show joyful tears.  
If I had known that were to be the last bullet I made,  
I would have handled it, a little less afraid.

### Seb Nagra

War is over! The newspapers scream,  
I amble down the streets, am I in a dream?  
Only yesterday bombs hailed from the sky  
Only yesterday I heard an orphan's cry

Yet despite this terror, this horror, this fear  
A mere day later, people line the streets and cheer.  
Parades and parties that will last into the night  
Jets flying our colours, red, blue, and white.

But you peer through the joy, into sorrow,  
Families whose boys won't come back tomorrow.  
And the boys won't come back the ensuing day,  
They'll never come back, all you can do is pray.

But they saved our country, they didn't die in vain,  
We will never forget their sacrifice and pain.  
No bombs, no fires, no more sleeping underground.  
And their sacrifice has led to celebration all around.



# Library News

The lockdown has brought about some interesting reading habits. In a recent Booktrust survey, 47% of parents in the UK say they have noticed their child reading more independently since the lockdown started. I think that could be true of Arden students, as I have been equally humbled and impressed by the amount of AR quizzes taken this term and it has been a pleasure to engage with students and their reading by distributing Achievement Points. The AR Rewards programme still continues and prizes will be distributed when we return. Congratulations to this term's winners. Coincidentally, for the second time this year, two Year 8s have achieved the exact same score, even though they read different books:

## Year 7

**Most Books Read:** Thomas Bamforth (5) and Lucy Brookes (9)

**Most Points:** Iris Phillips (170) and Kezia Malcolm (154.5)

**Most Effort:** Lawrie Humby and Lizzie Thompson

**Prize Draw:** Tom McGill

## Year 8

**Most Books Read:** Bonnie Davidson (5) and Jake Murphy (10)

**Most Points:** Lily Lockett (29), Abby Martin (52.1) and Josh Lerat (52.1)

**Most Effort:** Lucy Evans and Freya Benjamin-Congreves

**Prize Draw:** Luke Johnson

Alongside reading, Creative Writing club has been continuing virtually and I would love for more members to be involved. Year 7 are concentrating on the Federation of Children's Book Group competition to write on the theme of 'The Planet We Share'. Ages 11-17 'Quaran-teens' can write about their lockdown experience for the Booktrust competition 'Generation Lockdown' where they could be published in a book alongside authors including Cathy Cassidy and Nizrana Farook. For more details on those competitions, or just to join a community of Arden Young Writers, students should use this Google Classroom code: **q52rc2f**

Keep reading!

Miss O'Brien

# Amazing Student Work

Arden staff have spent the last week or so sending in examples of fabulous student work which has been completed this half term. I am sure you will see why we are so proud of our fabulous students. Over the next couple of pages we have included just a sample of what has been going on.

**Mrs Pemberton was really touched by this painted pebble created by Melissa Shirley (Y11). The words read 'Find something that relieves you from all the chaos of the outside world and you will never be lost'. It was created in response to a History task commemorating the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Belsen concentration camp and inspired by Anne Frank's diary.**

**Wise and poignant words indeed!**



**Miss Endley has been really impressed with her Year 12 students who have been really brave and created and shared their own revision videos. Also Miss Endley has noticed members of the group commenting on the classroom and helping each other out with things they don't understand. What great team work.**

**Here Mrs Hodgkinson shares one of her favourite pieces of writing from this half term. Year 10 student Mia Evans has written in response to a task set to write about 'A Favourite Place... or Space...'**

The pungent inhalation of the chlorine inhabits the back of my nose. Taking my time, apprehensively, I take the first step into the utopia of the swimming pool room. An overwhelming sense overcomes me which forces a tear out of my hazel coloured iris: I don't know if it's the comforting smells, the welcoming warmth, or the relief and ecstasy of normality.

Four months and I'm finally back to training. Four months of being trapped, enclosed, suffocated by my mundane walls. The fear still lingering; people still weary. What do we do now? Can we hug? Can we speak? After no human contact, the immense realisation of my team's reunion strikes me. I hoist my pummelled, neglected, blemished, disfigured swimming bag upon my hunched back and rush into the changing rooms.

I rally my golden goggles; my swimming costume (which I manage to squeeze over my exercise deprived figure); two water bottles, one filled with Lucozade and the other hydrating water; my silicon, stretchy swimming cap, and rush back into the swimming pool room.

The heat of the room blemishes my already crimson cheeks. Fearing the dreaded plunge into the penetratingly cold abyss, I suspend my big toe centimetres above the pool, preparing to lower myself in. I make connection with the water. It's numbingly cold. Instantly, goosebumps shoot out of my skin like a viridescent flower stem bursting through the firm soil. However, despite the tantalizingly sharp pool temperature, I gradually submerge my whole body into the pool.

The prompt rush of adrenaline fuels my muscles to fight through the bitterness of the temperature. I push off the wall. Lying flat, face down, on the water, I momentarily forget how to swim, but, one by one my limbs begin pushing me through the pool. My toes extend and my ankles flex and my legs straighten, forming a kicking motion and my core engages and my hips swivel and my arms reach forward and backwards and forward and backwards. As the water flows past me I progress forward, at immense speed, and my memories rush back.

### The red panda

Experiments have shown that red pandas have a sweet tooth. Some tests were set up with plain, naturally.

They are vegetarian carnivores. They descended from carnivorous ancestors.

Red panda makes a very strange breathing/whistling noise, this is how it sounds:

Male red pandas fight with each other by standing on their hind legs and boxing with their claws.

A red panda eats and average of 20000 bamboo leaves a day!

### The best rainforest animal is a Finger Monkey

Finger monkeys are able to turn their head a full 180 degrees.

Finger monkeys can jump nearly 15 feet in the air. Finger monkeys are known for their long tails, usually more than twice the length of their body around 6 to 7 inches long.

Finger monkeys are wise and mischievous. They follow a very smart skilled lifestyle and additionally use communication techniques to speak to different finger monkeys.

Each newborn is about the size of a human thumb.

### THE OCELOT IS THE BEST RAINFOREST ANIMAL BECAUSE....

The wildcats don't chase their food they use their teeth to rip small pieces then swallow it whole.

Ocelots can put their claws back into their paws to keep them safe.

Ocelots are the smallest wildcat of any species having one.

They communicate with each other through facial marks.

It is smaller than many of the big cats.

It can swim better than a cat.

### Toucans are the best rainforest animal because...

Their bills are 20 cm. They have the longest bill of any bird in the world in relation to their body size which is 43.5 cm.

They use their long bills to reach for fruit on the tips of branches that might be out of reach for other birds.

The beak of a toucan is home to a flat tongue of the same length, which helps the toucan catch insects, frogs, and reptiles.

Their bright colors provide good camouflage in the dappled light of the rainforest canopy. Although toucans spend a lot of time in trees, they are not very good at flying. Toucans mostly travel among trees by hopping. However, when they do take flight, they flap their wings vigorously and glide, traveling only short distances.

### The tapir is the best rainforest animal because...

Billy goats? Not a strange pasture because it is camouflage when they reach 3 months in age after they are more comfortable with their surroundings and are not as dependent on the goats whores, of.

They have a gestation period of 13-14 months, so they are very slow to reproduce only one calf is born at a time.

They are the heaviest mammals in South America weighing about 550kg which is about the weight of half an average horse.

They have been around 35 million years which is way longer than we have been around for.

I would closely to the horse and being rather than the elephant, that most people believe it is related to with its horse like voice.

A group of tapirs is called a candle.

Me with a tapir!

### TREE KANGAROO'S RULE THE RAINFOREST

They are the only marsupial that can climb trees.

The only marsupial that can swim.

They can jump up to 100 cm.

They are the only marsupial that can swim.

Miss West has shared some fabulous work by Year 7 who were tasked with promoting a rainforest animal to try and convince their teacher that the animal they chose was the best of all the rainforest animals!

Mrs Collett was delighted by the work of her Year 8 group in their topic on race relations in America. Here are a couple of examples of fabulous book covers created about Martin Luther King following a task evaluating his significance.

Mrs Crane wanted to recognise the fabulous work that Year 7 student Lucy Brookes has been completing remotely. Here is an example taken from her 'Jurassic Park' project in Science.

Miss Berry sent in this example (below) taken from a series of slides by Year 8 student Hermione Pearson who went above and beyond to present her work ensuring she followed the method modelled by Miss Berry in her teaching video.

Question 2: James has some apples and oranges. The ratio of apples and oranges is 2:5. He has 15 oranges. How many apples does James have?

apples: 3 3

oranges: 3 3 3 3 3

15/5=3  
3\*3=6 apples

The examples on the right are two more fabulous examples from Miss Berry, this time of some super Maths construction work completed by Jenna Makepeace and Isla Jewsbury (Y7).

"Construction" in Geometry means to draw shapes, angles or lines accurately. These constructions use only compass, straightedge (i.e. ruler) and a pencil.

Well done girls on some fabulous Maths work.



Here are some examples of stunning art work completed at home by students and shared by teachers across the Art department.



A drawing in progress from Y10 Ella Malcolm's GCSE coursework project.



Concept art design of a 'Pirate Island' by Kiren Thatal (Y9).



Work by Stephanie Edelsten (Y9) in response to work set on architecture using pen to create different textures and tones, then adding colour.



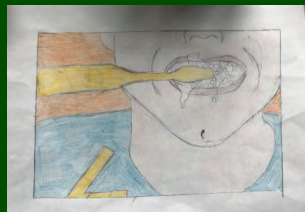
Ben Menzies



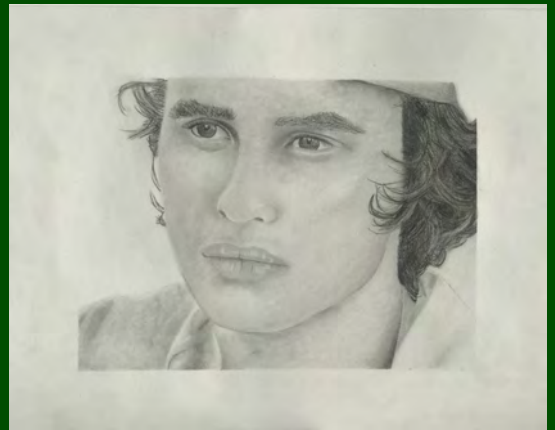
Emiliya Mladjenovic



Jack Burton



(Left and Above) Year 8 'Hero and Villain' project work



Joe Foster (Y10) from his work on the theme 'Contrast' (observational study).



Concept art designs for a pirate character by I-r Juliette Worrall, Annie King, Jack Bucknall, Sophie Mitchell and Matthew Dowding (Y9).



Sebrina Stein (Y10) from her work on the theme 'Adornment' (observational study).



Year 7 work using pencil crayon techniques that students have been practising. An illustration of a scene from The Hobbit by Hattie Frisby and a scene from Harry Potter by Lachlan Kilduff.





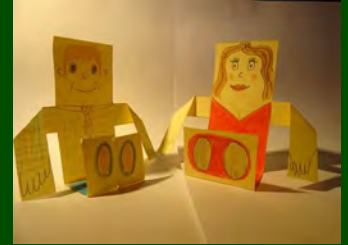


Emily Tomkins (Y10)



Dylan Foxely (Y7)

Freya Mollison (Y7)



Above - Daisy Burrows (Y8)

Left - Hari Rai (Y8)

## We Want Your Stories!

As part of Mental Health Awareness Week, Miss Berry asked Year 7 to share with her some of the things they have been doing during lockdown to help keep themselves physically and mentally healthy. She was particularly taken by this cushion (right) which has been created by Zoe Watkins.

As well as this creative work, Miss Berry also wanted to highlight this account by Amelia Turk. We wanted to share it so that it might inspire other students to share their stories with us. There will be one more newsletter before the Summer and it would be fabulous to hear from you all about what you have been getting up to apart from your school work. Send your stories and pictures into your Form Tutor or Head of Year and they will be passed on. Well done Amelia!



*'Overall I think it's (lockdown) made me keep healthy and think more about others.*

*Maybe be a little kinder. One of the stranger things is that the birds seem louder in the morning and everywhere looks so green and pollution free.*

*I think by sticking to my school routine I have helped myself have some proper structure to my day. This has helped my learning.*

*Connect: every Saturday my family take part in a virtual pub quiz with Sophie Williams and her parents.*

*Be Active.... And stay healthy: we are finding different walks around our house that we didn't know existed before such as one at the back of Kixley Lane full of baby lambs. I'm also running 5km twice a week to keep up my fitness as I can no longer attend the Solihull and Small Health Athletics Club for my sprint training and we are cycling to Packwood and back weekly.*

*Take Notice: I've taken part in yoga with my Mum through her work. This has helped me slow down and relax.*

*Learn: I have to admit to have become a little obsessed with the language all Duolingo and I have risen to second from top in the French league.*

*Give: I've been making cakes for my Grandparents who are shielding and I've also been having a virtual history or geography lesson with my Grandad. I email him my lesson and we discuss it together. This helps us both. My Grandparents have company, he helps bring my lessons to life, and we both get to talk to each other.'*



### MANAGING CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) ANXIETY

**For You**

- Avoid excessive exposure to media coverage
- Connect through calls/text/internet
- Add extra time for daily stress relief
- Practice self-care
- Focus on your mental health

**For Kids**

- Reassure them that they're safe
- Let them talk about their worries
- Share your own coping skills
- Limit their news exposure
- Create a routine & structure

**For Quarantine/Isolation**

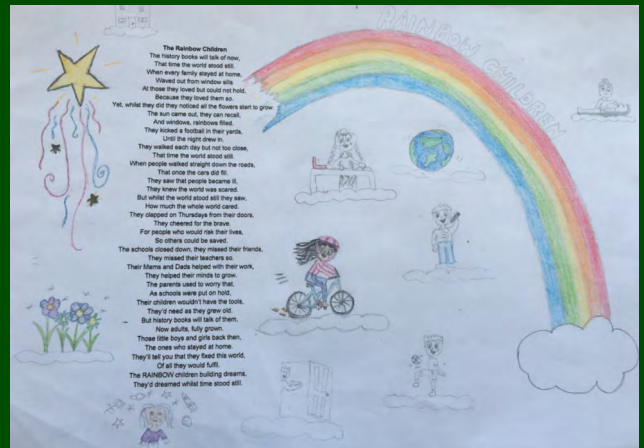
- Keep in contact with your loved ones via social media, texts, and phone calls
- Create a daily self-care routine
- Keep yourself busy: games, books, movies
- Focus on new relaxation techniques



# Final Thoughts

We thought we would leave you with these lovely illustrations of *The Rainbow Children* which is a poem about the current situation written by a Durham Mum-of-two. She wrote the poem for her children after being inspired by all the rainbows in the windows of houses near her home. The poem has been shared tens of thousands of times on social media all over the world, even as far off as Canada and Australia.

These poems were illustrated by Arden students as part of their 'Narrative Art' project.



## The Rainbow Children

The history books will talk of now,  
That time the world stood still.  
When every family stayed at home,  
Waved out from window sills  
At those they loved but could not hold,  
Because they loved them so.  
Yet, whilst they did they noticed all the flowers start to grow.



The sun came out, they can recall,  
And windows, rainbows filled.  
They kicked a football in their yards,  
Until the night drew in.  
They walked each day but not too close  
That time the world stood still.



When people walked straight down the roads,  
That once the cars did fill.  
They saw that people became ill,  
They knew the world was scared.  
But whilst the world stood still they saw,  
How much the whole world cared.  
They clapped on Thursdays from their doors,  
They cheered for the brave.  
For people who would risk their lives,  
So others could be saved.



The schools closed down, they missed their friends,  
They missed their teachers so.  
Their Mams and Dads helped with their work,  
They helped their minds to grow.  
The parents used to worry that,  
As schools were put on hold,  
Their children wouldn't have the tools,  
They'd need as they grew old.  
But history books will talk of them,  
Now adults, fully grown.  
Those little boys and girls back then,  
The ones who stayed at home.  
They'll tell you that they fixed this world,  
Of all they would fulfil.  
The RAINBOW children building dreams,  
They'd dreamed whilst time stood still.

