



YOUNG ARCHER



Hand-drawn: Some of the cards made by Martin Primary School kids for elderly people in local care homes,

Cards that say so much

Children at Martin Primary School sent out messages of love and hope to the older generations by designing cards and filling them with heartfelt messages. Nalia wrote: "I hope this message will lighten up your heart... You are not alone, you have Martin Primary on your side" and Clara wrote: "Stay Strong, Fit and Happy." The cards were delivered to elderly people in local care homes just before the schools closed down in March.

Goggles and gloves for a good cause

The Archer Academy in East Finchley has donated every single pair of its science goggles and disposable gloves to the NHS frontline to help with the response to Covid-19. This amounted to about 250 pairs in total which were given to local GP surgeries to distribute where needed.



Asterix v Coronavirus

By Daphne Chamberlain

Fans of the French comic book hero Asterix will know that all the Gauls' names ended in -ix and the Romans' in -us. So, remembering that the stories parody current people and events, can you guess the name of a masked charioteer defeated by Asterix and Obelix in one of their more recent stories?

Yes, none other than Coronavirus. We were reminded of this in a recent obituary of Albert Uderzo, who illustrated Rene Goscinny's original Asterix books. They were translated into 111 languages and dialects, and sold around 380 million copies.

Neither Uderzo nor Goscinny, who died many years ago, was involved in the creation of the later books in the series. *Asterix and the Chariot Race*,

which features the character of Coronavirus, was published in 2017, which has given rise to some conspiracy theories, but it's worth recalling that Covid 19 is the latest in a series of coronaviruses.

An interesting thing about Uderzo is that he was born with six fingers on each hand. Even after they were removed, he held a pencil between his third and fourth fingers.

Family project fuels a love of reading

By David Melsome

Martin Primary School has successfully seen its first cohort of children, parents and carers through a six-week course that aims to encourage a life-long love of reading. The East Finchley school was given a grant by the Grange Big Local organization to develop its version of the Early Words Together project, created by the National Literacy Trust and aimed at children in nursery and reception.

Each session introduces a story of the week with a song related to the theme of the book. The whole group shares the story and then parents and children all take part in a creative activity like making treasure chests for a character called Pirate Frank and a telescope for Timothy Pope.

Teacher Julie Taylor, who led the course with nursery

teacher Sharon Brosnan, said: "This programme is particularly beneficial to children and parents for whom English is an additional language. Attendance was excellent and parents spoke highly of the programme. It has definitely encouraged more reading at home." Martin Primary is hoping to run a second course when normal school times return.



Early readers: Children proudly show the treasure chests they made from the Pirate Frank story.

Stay home and stay fit

Schools may be temporarily closed during the virus lockdown but while their buildings may be shut, PE staff at the Archer Academy in East Finchley are still keeping students active.

Each day a different teacher is posting a fitness exercise and asking students, parents and anyone else who is up for the challenge to give it a go. The Archer Daily Challenge will continue every day while the school community remains at home. Anyone can get involved on Instagram @archeracademy.



Staying active: PE teacher Miss Le gives an online lesson

Ideas for life in lockdown

Have you made anything creative while you're staying at home? Send us photos and details and we'll print the best. Email: news@the-archer.co.uk

Try our 50-word challenge

This challenge is for everyone, young and old.

Can you write a short story in 50 words or less? Impossible, you say. Not quite, but it's not easy. Stay indoors and exercise your brain cells by trying to write your own mini-masterpiece.

Enjoy these examples below, then pen your own 50-word story and email it to us at: news@the-archer.co.uk, or post it to 50-Word Story, The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE, by Friday 15 May. We'll print the best ones we receive in next month's edition.

Forgive me, Father

By Diana Cormack

"You can burn this," ordered Maud, thrusting their daughter's letter towards her husband. Derek continued poking the fire. "But she wrote it to me and I want to see her," he replied. "Over my dead body!" Maud snapped. "That can be arranged," whispered Derek, raising the poker above his head.

Elsewhere in the Universe

By Phin Foster

The stricken spaceship's captain addressed his crew: "Our engines have failed, our shields are down and our oxygen's low. If we don't move, we'll be sucked to our deaths in the nearest sun." The chief engineer radioed in: "All fixed now, sir." "Oh," said the captain. "Carry on, everyone."

A Shark's Tale

By John Boyd

It was a balmy tropics morning. The swimmer rolled onto his stomach, his limbs moving gracefully, powerfully. Thirty feet below the great white shark rolled onto his back. His tail moving gracefully, powerfully. Ascending. As each saw the other, their hearts raced, but only the shark grinned.

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