

The Weekly Buzz

Portland Place School

25 May 2020

Homemade musical instruments!

A Day In the Life Of Sylvan Farmer

Head Boy's letter



Head Boy's letter

I started at PPS in September 2012. I found summing up my eight years at Portland Place in one piece of prose very challenging. The truth about my memories of this school is that they are flashes: non chronological, random, emotional, strange, humorous and wonderful.

I stumbled across a technique the American painter, writer and poet, Joe Brainard, used for his own autobiographies. He recalls many different experiences in short snippets beginning each line: 'I remember...' I noticed how powerful these brief snapshots placed together on a page could be.

I decided this would be the best way to write this article:

Here are some things I remember about Portland Place:

I remember Mr. Naemi calling everyone 'Chief.'

I remember Mr. Kubik being the most excited person on the bus when we won the league.

I remember playing softball in Regents Park.

I remember how the light would stream through the windows of PPS Hall on summer days.

I remember when the library was in the office, and had a garden.

I remember playing football in the beautiful red and black kit.

I remember sitting GCSE English Literature on a very sweaty day in the GPS hall.

I remember saying goodbye to my junior school blue polo shirt at the end of year 6.

I remember getting my first white school shirt in year 7.

I remember getting my white school shirt signed on the last day of year 11.

I remember 'Reviewing the Situation'

I remember Miss O'Donnell always drinking Twinings tea.

I remember the excitement of the first time Cavendish won the sports day cup (We then won two years in a row – come on Cavendish!)

I remember Mr. Jones explaining the importance of old fashioned romance: 'Never underestimate the power of flowers...'

I remember (other) Mr. Jones's incredible devotion to 'Casablanca' and chocolate raisins.

I remember reading Ozymandias for the first time.



Head Boy's letter

I remember singing very badly in the school choir.

I remember Mr. Tasic bellowing 'Rogues!' down the corridors.

I remember watching Marlon Brando in 'A Streetcar Named Desire' in English - and thinking it was the single coolest thing I'd ever seen.

I remember seeing the girl's reaction to watching Marlon Brando in 'A Streetcar Named Desire'

I remember Mr. Rider shouting 'George put ya trousers on!'

I remember being shocked at how many stairs there were.

I remember Ms. Lambert making Lukas Roniger and I false breasts when we played old women in the Year 7 school play.

I remember the wide game (or was it the Y game? I never worked that out...)

I remember the blue sofa's in the Sixth form common room.

I remember Gary.

I remember walk overs.

I remember having the terrorist attack practice drill.

I remember playing rugby on freezing cold winter mornings.

I remember the first day I was allowed out for lunch in Year 9.

I remember when Mr. Thompson had goldfish.

I remember my first day, I remember my last day, I remember Portland Place.



Me on my first day,
September 2012.



Me today

Albie Marber



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Dear Parents

We are delighted with the way students have responded to the Zoom lessons and our staff is impressed with the level of engagement by most students, despite the difficult circumstances.

A very small minority of students are consistently missing lessons, or behaving against the policy and ethos of what we are trying to achieve.

Could parents gently remind students to be ready and organised for all Zoom lessons, to have cameras switched on and actively participate, as they would do in class, by following the teacher's instructions.

Heads of Years



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Noticeboard

To get us started this week, here are some messages from teachers!

Set work finished? Time for a break? Free time at the weekend?

Miss Coates recommends... Bread Ahead

<https://www.instagram.com/breadaheadbakery/channel/?hl=en>

Bread Ahead have started streaming live baking classes on their Instagram page.



Miss Coates also recommends... Step By Step Dance School

<https://www.facebook.com/StepByStepDanceOnline/>

Ballroom and Latin American Dance Lesson via Live Streaming! Learn to dance in your own home, suitable for the whole family!





Noticeboard

Music

At the end of this half term, I would like to thank all the Visiting Music Staff for their fantastic work. By the end of this week we will have scheduled nearly 600 lessons and achieved almost an 80% attendance rate. Thanks so much also to all the students, many more of whom have only missed 1 or 2 lessons, and also to the parents for their continued support.

However, for special recognition, the Music Department would like to congratulate the following students who, since lockdown at PPS started, have attended **100%** of their online instrumental / vocal musical lessons (7 weeks worth of lessons) which demonstrates fantastic commitment, effort and organisation, and is highly commendable.

Year 6

Pierce Drennan (Drum Kit)

Maxwell Powell (Saxophone)

Year 7

Luke Ahrens (Trombone)

Marcus Allan (Drum Kit & Trombone)

Leo Bennett (Saxophone)

Aubrey Brooke-Cowden (Piano)

Remy Brooke-Cowden (Piano)

Isabella Calvert Bull (Singing, Flute and Cello)

Isaac Meyer (Bass Guitar)

James Mitcheson (Piano & Trumpet)

Maxim Mydlar (Cello)

Sam Osborn (Piano & Flute)

Sonny Shelton (Drum Kit)

Thomas Schaub (Trumpet)



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Year 7 continued

Azure Smith (Saxophone)

Albert Thompson (Guitar & Viola)

Valery Vogel (Cello)

Emily Zhang (Piano, Violin & Theory)

Jenny Zhang (Theory)

Year 8

Jesse Francis Baum (Piano)

Lana Tuite (Piano & Singing)

Year 9

Jake Cossey (Piano)

Angel Ellis (Piano)

Zachary Sharif (Guitar)

Year 10

Zeynep Yilmaz (Piano & Singing)



Noticeboard

Literacy Corner

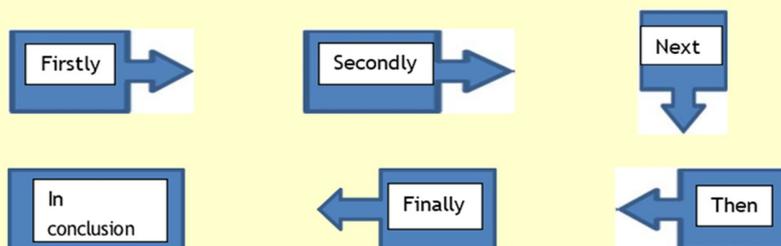
Further Strategies to use during reading...

- Have a dictionary available, so that you can look up unfamiliar words. OR
- Use Post-Its to write unfamiliar words down and then go back to them once you have finished reading, so you do not lose continuity when reading.
- Encourage text marking, if you child is able/permitted to write on the resource. They can underline key words and jot thoughts/ideas in to the margins.
- If the text is fiction, ask the reader to identify the genre of the text. What are the main conventions of that form?

...and afterreading

- Text restructuring: the reader repeats the information in another format, e.g. flow chart, list, concept map or grid. This encourages the reader to think about the information and to recreate it in a different form, ensuring understanding of the subject matter and an ability to sequence ideas.

Chronological Sequence





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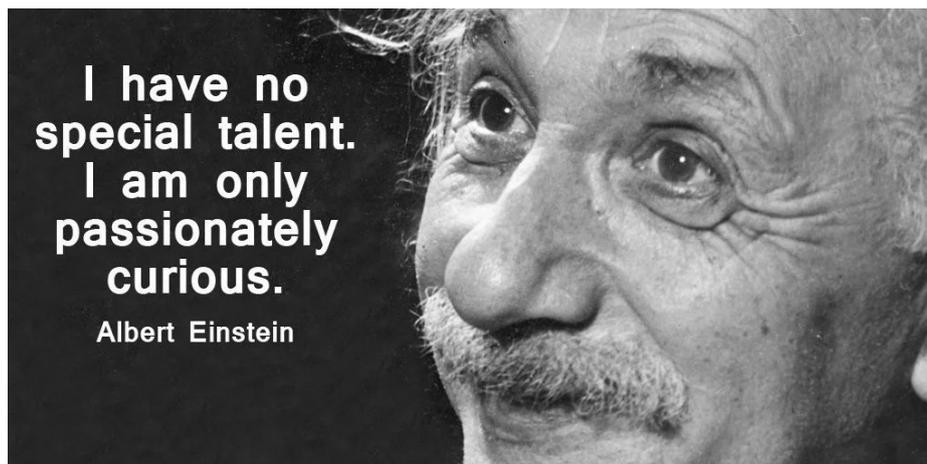
Ferocious curiosity

I always encourage my EAL students to have a **ferocious curiosity** and improve themselves. I recently asked them why it was important to be curious. Here is what they told me:

Josh Liu (Year 7)- "I think it is very important to be curious because you can learn new skills and become a better student. You can ask questions, learn from others and look for ways to learn better. I want to understand how different things work and keep my mind active all the time."

Emily Zhang (Year 7)- "I like to explore how different things work and why they work. When I grow up, I want to have a good job and curiosity will help me achieve that. I know that curiosity will develop my knowledge and help me make my dreams come true."

Jenny Zhang (Year 7)- "I became more curious at Portland Place because I was encouraged to come up with my own answers and explore different ways of solving problems. I know that asking questions is part of curiosity and I try hard to ask questions during lessons."





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7 Day Lockdown Filmmaking Challenge

- and the winner is....

From Friday 8th - 15th May, Portland Place students were given the task of completing either a short film, sequence or film script. We had sixteen students ranging from Years 6 -13 register interest and received some impressive pieces of work, which made the decision incredibly difficult.

It was wonderful to see how many of the students embraced this challenge, some even managing to tempt their family members into taking part! After days of contemplation, it was decided that the winner was

Sam Osborn of Year 7

after his wonderful film that involved stop motion editing.

Thank you all once again for taking part and I am sure we have some budding filmmakers of the future within our PPS community.

Wishing you all a great half term.

Mr Flack



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PPS Debating Society Update

Exciting news for Year 9!

We would like to invite you to join Year 10 and 11 in the Zoom Debating Society. This takes place every Friday at 12pm and Ms Baig will send you an invite on Firefly after half term.

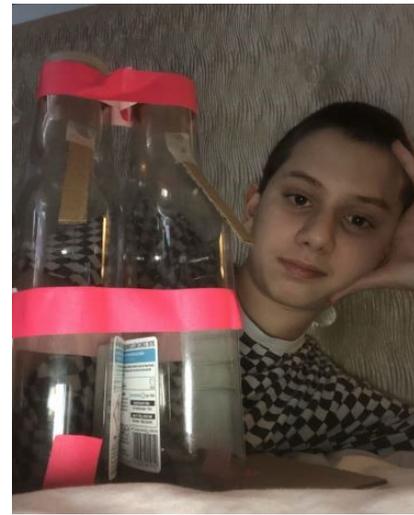
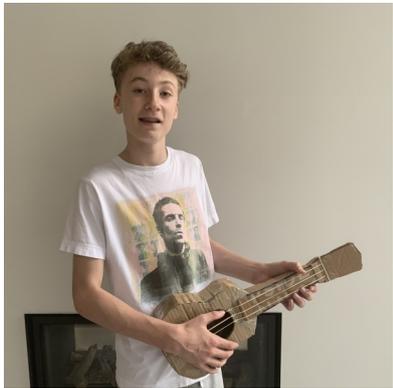


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Music

Year 7 and 8 have been making their own instruments from things they have found inside their homes!





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A Day in the Life of ...

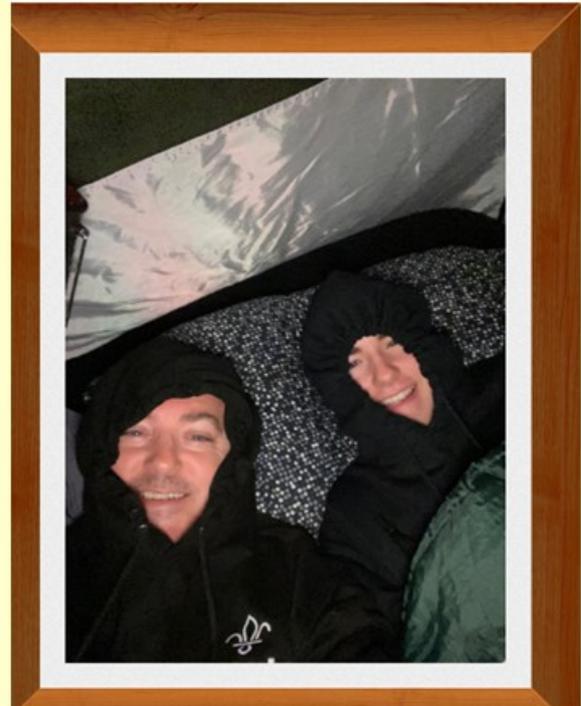
Sylvan Farmer



Scouting Lockdown #CampAtHome 2020

We're record breakers! Over 84,000 people in 67 countries worldwide took part last night!

It was the big camp at home record breaking attempt to get as many beavers, cubs, scouts, explorers and leaders camping on the same night



Having marshmallows; and in the tent

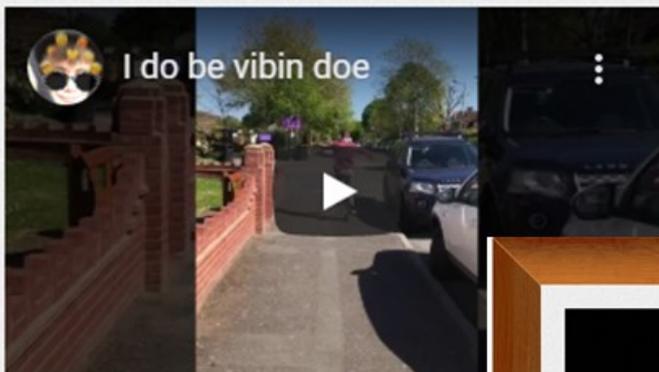


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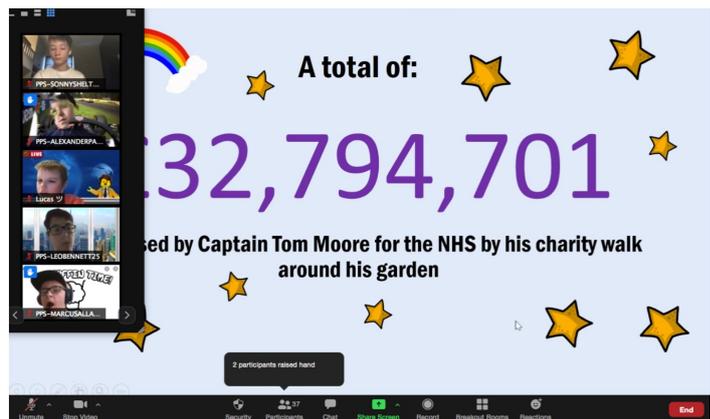
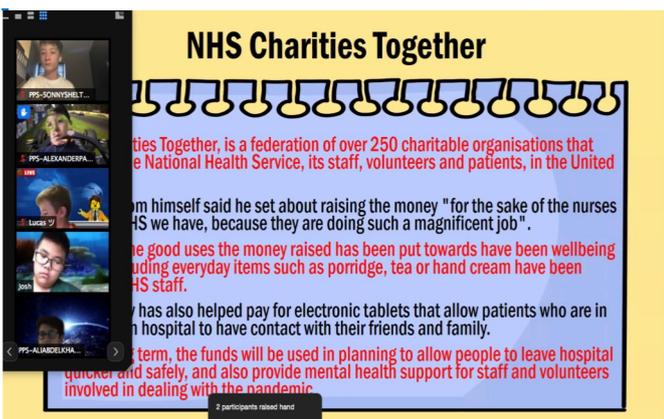
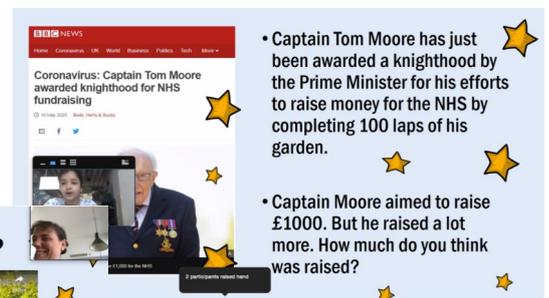
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The campfire

Year 6 & 7

On Thursday we had our end of term assembly. Thank you to Mr Ruddy's form for their excellent presentation on Captain Tom Moore and the NHS! Congratulations to our students for all their hard work and efforts throughout the last term, in what have been challenging circumstances. Excellent resilience and commitment has been demonstrated by all of Y6&7.





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Learning Support

The Summary of the Week Award goes to:

Emily Zhang

For her summary of an extract of the book 'Wonder'

'The other children ran away every time they saw him because he looked terrifying. Although the family wanted to protect him, all August wanted was to feel ordinary.'

Well done!

Modern Foreign Languages

Y8 students have been studying how to introduce their skills / talents / ambitions to an audience pretending they were going to a talent competition.

They worked on their written scripts first and then had to record their audition for the talent show.

It's very cross-curricular French, Drama and Music, with Film Studies! At least the lockdown allows students more freedom and some of them have really impressed Mr Lalande by their creative skills. Well done to Y8!



Gene as Picasso "le peintre d'art abstrait"



Jesse as a drummer "le batteur"



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Isaac the real magician "Le vrai magicien"



Lawton as the magician and juggler "le magicien jongleur"



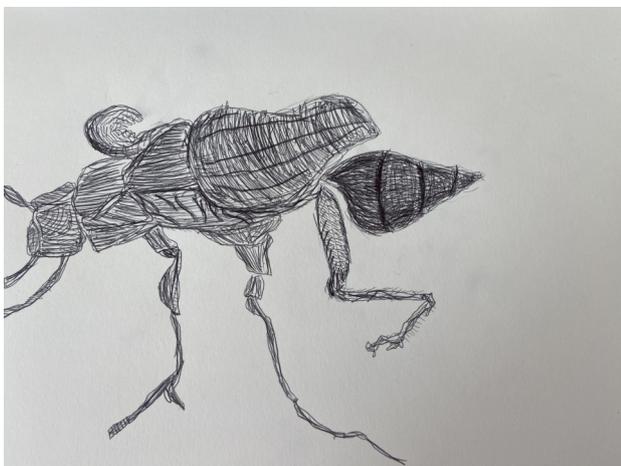
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Year 9 have been doing more work inspired by Mexican street artist SEGO. As well as practising more insects, one group have moved onto animals that begin with 'A'... Can you guess what they are?



Sophie Djurasovic



Jake Cossey



Reuben Wiseman-Oxinalde



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And now for something completely different...



Josh Hallam



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Thank you for reading