

MESSAGE FROM HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents / Carers

Keeping in touch

I hope that you are all staying safe and well. It has been quite a memorable last few days as government announcement after announcement led to all schools being shut and the instruction to stay in our homes. Despite not being in school, we believe it is important to keep our newsletter going as a way to maintain contact with each other and sustain the Furze Platt Senior School community over the next few weeks or months.



CONTACT US

Show My Homework

Since the school buildings closed, our teachers have been busy setting work on Show My Homework and via email. I have heard a lot of talk in the press and media about whether parents and carers should be replicating school at home with individual lessons and a regular school day. Even in normal circumstances, this would not be possible and in these exceptional times when our staff and students may be ill or looking after relatives and children, maintaining a regular timetable is not possible. From working with the children of our key workers this week, I know there is much work that has been set. Indeed, at times students have struggled to work out what to do first and one of the skills we can help with is prioritisation and planning of work.

It is worth saying that we have had a handful of calls suggesting limited work has been set. However, on all but one occasion it has been that students have not accessed the work on Show My Homework or email as they were asked.

SHOW MY HOMEWORK / SATCHEL ONE



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

SPORTS CALENDAR

All events are currently postponed or cancelled until Friday 8th May. Further information will be sent out in due course.



Learning beyond the curriculum

With learning not happening within a traditional lesson by lesson format comes an opportunity for students to advance and broaden their learning. Within this newsletter you will see links to websites that may develop students' interests far beyond our regular curriculum. Students can use these online tools to develop skills, read around subjects and deepen their understanding. Moreover, there is much to be gained from working with a parent or carer to build something, grow plants, learn a language, computer code, watch famous films, play a new board or card game or understand what you do as a living. Please encourage your children to enjoy exploring and expanding their horizons. Our Sixth Form Reading lists can help with this also.

SIXTH FORM WIDER READING LISTS

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Exams

As I write this newsletter (although things change rapidly at present) we still have no further communication for our Year 11 and 13 past the announcement I sent students via email last Friday.

GOVERNMENT WEBSITE: FURTHER DETAILS ON EXAMS AND GRADES ANNOUNCED

We are expecting news soon of how grades are to be awarded and will be in contact once this is received. We await an Ofqual announcement that we have been told will happen next week.

Keyworkers and counselling

Please do remember that should you be a key worker and require childcare in school the email address is keyworker@furzeplatt.net. Similarly, if your child is concerned about the current situation a list of key counselling and support agencies is available on our website.

COUNSELLING & SUPPORT AGENCIES



Photo above: our keyworker children doing some African drumming this morning

Thank you

Finally, thank you to parents for the lovely comments we have received. Here are a small selection, they are much appreciated.

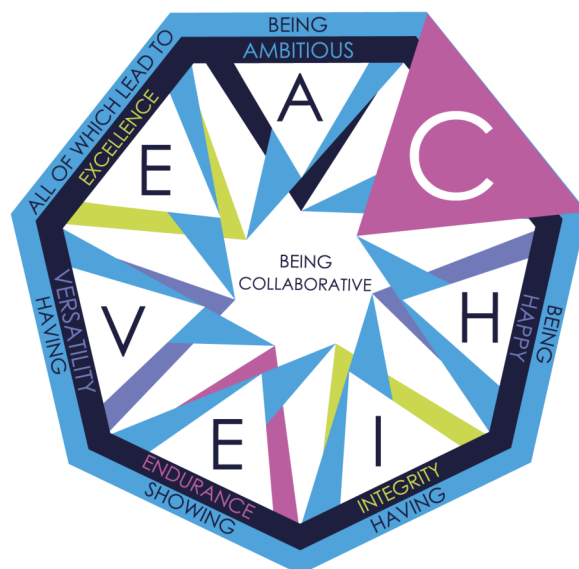
"I think FPSS is doing a great job! Both my kids have plenty to do and their teachers are being really responsive and helpful"

"I just wanted to send a message of support to you and all your amazing staff for everything you're doing to continue to support students during this crazy time – thank you so much!"

Take care and I wish you and your families well.

Dr Andrew Morrison

Headteacher (BA Hons, PGCE, MA, PhD)



FAREWELL EVENTS FOR YEARS 11 AND 13



Like most of the country, we were taken by complete surprise with last Wednesday's announcement that all GCSE and A Level exams were to be cancelled and that, with that, our Year 11 and 13 students only had two more days in school. With the exams due to start in only a few school weeks, all of our students were working with a steely focus and determination on achieving their best in the summer. Year 11 all had their eyes on their preferred courses in our Sixth Form or at college while Year 13 had their places at university or on an apprenticeship to play for.

While we all understand, and fully support, why such drastic measures had to be taken, the news was a bit of a knock-out blow for all of our exam students. While we couldn't change that, the school was determined to make those last two days in school as positive an experience as possible for them.

With a mere 24 hours to prepare things, Mr Ging and the Sixth Form team swung into action to put together a leavers event for Year 13, while Miss Boseley and Miss Thorogood took the lead for Year 11.

YEAR 13 LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY

BY DEPUTY HEAD BOY, DANIEL BRANT (YEAR 13)

With such short notice to the end of the school term it was only fitting for Furze Platt's Sixth Form to hold an emergency Year 13 Leavers' Assembly...which we did to our typically brilliant standards! It was incredible to see such a large crowd of students and staff alike turn up for our Leavers Awards and to share memories, take photos and have a little bit of fun. The assembly itself was a resounding success with numerous moments of laughter and joy with the awards ceremony being memorable for a

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variety of reasons, not least by the sheer volume of crying (happy tears, of course)! The sense of community was truly remarkable and reflected how much of a bond we have all formed over the past years. It was clear to see how much we will miss one another and how much our school years have meant, which was particularly poignant under the current uncertain circumstances we face. Nonetheless, as a community it is clear we will all be there for each other - from a safe, two metre distance at least! Furze Platt Sixth Form and its staff will be missed by all our students and we look forward to seeing everyone again later in the summer. As was said in the assembly, this is not goodbye but farewell!

of now not knowing how our grades were going to be decided was awful. The next two days at school were definitely two to remember, the most memorable day being Friday.

There were many highs of our last day at Furze Platt, there was constant positivity yet a lot of tears throughout the whole day. From (basically) no lessons, to shirt signing, to at break having a very exciting football match between two teams of boys. But the most unforgettable part of the day was the leaver's assembly which was very quickly put together by the staff. The sense of community and togetherness with every single one of us singing along to Sweet Caroline whilst Mr Sheppard and Leon did their duet was so real. Definitely a part of the day none of us will forget. Despite the number of negatives from this, the positives are there and the Class of Covid-19 will certainly be remembered.

YEAR 11 LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY



Abby Jones (Year 11) writes:

'Unprecedented' seems to be the only word the government and I can seem to find to describe this situation. The strangest time all of us will probably ever experience, and the fact we're living in this time almost doesn't feel real. On Wednesday 18th March the government announced that schools will be closed from Friday 20th March, meaning no GCSE or A-Level exams would be taken in the summer. On receiving this information I kept refreshing the Sky News website page, to check I wasn't reading 'fake news'. But it was true. I'm sure all Year 11s and 13s had very mixed emotions at this point and loads of questions were left unanswered for days, as the Education Secretary was yet to announce how our grades would be decided.

Some were upset as most students instantly thought that our grades would be decided from predicted grades. People started to look at their most recent reports and began to feel distressed about what their predicted grades would look like. However, most were disappointed as we felt all our hard work had been wasted. Pages upon pages of notes, flashcards, and mind maps all for nothing. The uncertainty

Leon Best-Martinez (Year 11) writes:

When I heard that the exams were to be cancelled I could not believe it, I was in total SHOCK! Thankfully, the school explained to us the situation and told us that everything would be alright. We then had the brilliant idea to ask the school a favour - to allow us to have a 'Champions League Final' football game on the last day of school. This was to be contested between two sides who have played each other informally on most days over the past year. Not only did the school allow it, but half the staff also turned up to support us - they even dug out an old trophy to present the winning team! Playing that match helped it to go from being the worst week to the greatest week a Year 11 pupil could ask for. Most of the school turned up to the derby not knowing about the drama that was about to unfold. We had fantastic support from the school, from younger students to the teachers. It was a thrilling end-to-end game, with a last minute equaliser that took the game to penalties.

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Furthermore, the school put on a leavers' assembly during our last lesson. When some of my year group started chanting for Mr Sheppard to sing, I ended up joining him at the front for a solo of Sweet Caroline. The whole year joined in, creating a memory that I will keep for a long time and which helped make the end of the school year even better. I personally want to say thank you to the teachers who organised it in the small amount of time they had. It brought many happy tears to my year group.

Billal Benassar (Year 11) writes:

What started out as a very ordinary week ended in quite extraordinary fashion! After the Government's announcement on Wednesday left us all quite confused about what would happen with our grades and what they would mean. The lack of clarity made things feel a little bleak. However, the teachers were not going to let us leave without making it worthwhile.

On the last day we were treated to an enthralling game of football in the "Furze Platt Champions League Final". The atmosphere was fantastic as all the students and teachers came together to watch this event. It was electric with everyone feeling they were part of something special, whether playing or spectating. The day ended with a superb final assembly where there were loads of funny awards from 'Biggest Drama Queen' to 'Best Bromance / Womance' to a selection of those embarrassing photos from when we were in Year 7. And nobody can forget Leon and Mr Sheppard's impromptu rendition of Sweet Caroline!

It was clear the teachers had put in an extraordinary amount of effort and everyone left feeling great about the school.

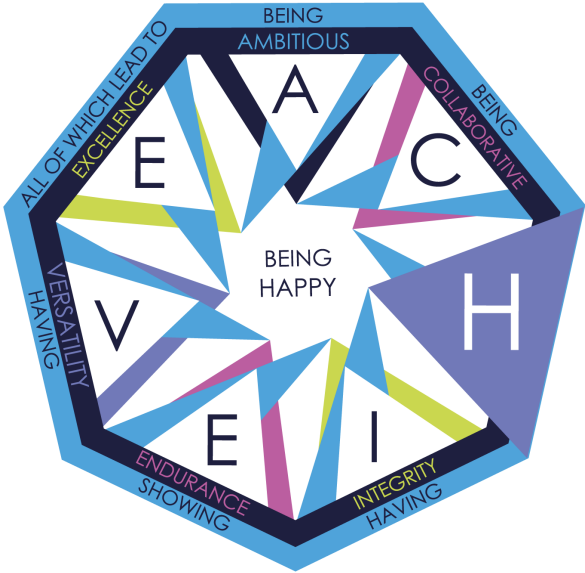


YEAR 11

APPLICATIONS TO FURZE PLATT'S SIXTH FORM

We are awaiting next week's announcement from Ofqual. Once we know more we will write again and hope to have the information to be able to address:

- * If relevant, once we have the specifics from the Department for Education, any work students could be doing to generate additional supporting evidence to enhance their grades.
- * How students may wish to revise or prepare for any possible exams / retakes they may wish to do in September (or whatever date is set).
- * Sixth Form, College, Apprenticeship and University preparation.



APPLICATIONS TO COLLEGES

If students have applied and are waiting to be invited to interview, the college will be in touch by email to arrange this, so students must keep checking their emails. It might be a telephone interview.

If students have applied and have already been given a date for an interview in the coming weeks, the college will be in touch by email to rearrange the interview so students must keep checking their emails. It might now be a telephone interview.

If they were intending to apply for a college course but have not yet done so, they should do so online as soon as possible, the colleges are ready and waiting to receive applications.

If students have any questions about applications, they should contact the individual colleges, or email me on judith.bubb@furzeplatt.net

YEAR 11 HOODIES

These have been ordered and are due to arrive in a few weeks. We will be in touch about how students should collect these nearer the time.

YEAR 8 (YEAR 9 IN SEPTEMBER 2020)

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE CHOICES

DEADLINE MONDAY 20TH APRIL

Students will choose their GCSE options during term 3 in 2021. However, in order to prepare students for the demands of GCSEs some subjects in Year 9 will be given slightly more lesson time than in Years 7 and 8. As a result of this we are asking students to choose to focus on just one modern foreign language in Year 9 from September 2020.

The language the student chooses to continue studying in Year 9 will be the language taken to GCSE level. This is therefore an important decision to make. Your child's language teachers will be sharing a presentation on Show My Homework over the next week that will help students with this decision. If you want to discuss the choice further, please do email your child's language teachers in the first instance and they will be happy to talk through the options further.

To indicate the language your child wishes to continue studying please complete the web form available on the link below.

YEAR 8 LANGUAGE CHOICE FORM

You can also indicate if your child wishes to continue studying two languages. Further information about how lessons for a second language will be structured will be sent once students have made their choices.

Please ensure the form is completed by Monday 20th April.

Thank you.



TAKING CONTROL



ALL YEAR GROUPS - HOW TO SUPPORT HOME LEARNING

Follow this guidance to create a positive learning environment at home

Be realistic about what you can do

- You're not expected to become teachers and your children aren't expected to learn as they do in school. Simply providing your children with some structure at home will help them to adapt. Use the tips below to help you make this work for your household
- Experiment in the first week, then take stock. What's working and what isn't? Ask your children, involve them too
- Share the load if there are 2 parents at home. Split the day into 2-3 hour slots and take turns so you can do your own work
- Take care of your own health and wellbeing. This will be new for your entire household, so give it time to settle.

Keep to a timetable wherever possible

- Create and stick to a routine if you can.
- Involve your children in setting the timetable where possible.

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- Check in with your children and try to keep to the timetable, but be flexible.
- Designate a working space if possible

Make time for exercise and breaks throughout the day

- Start each morning with a PE lesson at 9am with Joe Wicks or use the sessions provided by Mr Djaelani on the link below.

MR DJAELANI'S WORKOUT SESSIONS

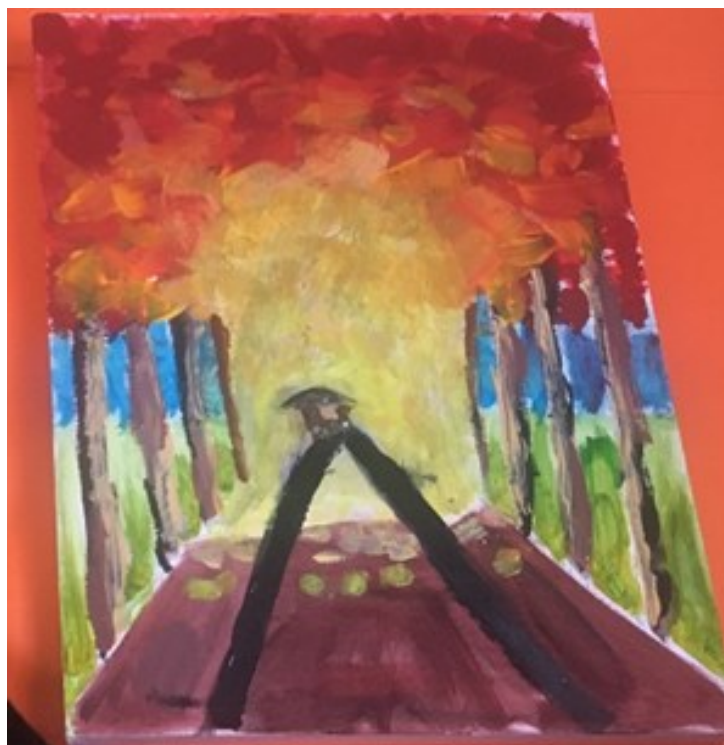
- If you have a garden, use it regularly. If you don't, try to get out once a day as permitted by the government (households can be together outdoors but 2 metres apart from others)

Other activities to keep children engaged throughout the day

- Ask grandparents to listen to your children read on FaceTime
- Give them chores to do so they feel more responsible about the daily routine at home
- Ask them to help you cook and bake
- Accept that they'll probably watch more TV/spend time on their phone – that's ok but you might want to set/agree some screen time limits

For example...

Chloe Wright, Year 7 (BY 5) painted this artwork following a walk in the woods. Well done to her for using this time to broaden her horizons and dabble in other skills.



FAMILY LEARNING RESOURCES



LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



RESOURCES FOR PARENTS / CARERS

Please see below for a list of resources that students of all year groups (and parents/carers!) may find of use.

ENGLISH RESOURCES



Please keep an eye out for the RSC 2018 Macbeth production to be aired on BBC. Once it has been shown, we will direct our students to watching this on BBC iplayer with a guided writing task. Work for An Inspector Calls will be sent out by the end of next week.

Furthermore, we have set lots of work for Year 10 students to do on Google Classroom. If your son / daughter has not yet logged on, please can you encourage them to do so as all this work is being checked and marked every week by teachers.

We are in the process of making a bank of research and enrichment tasks for Years 7-9. This will be included in future resource lists.

AUDIBLE

Audible.com are currently releasing free audiobooks for students at home.

MR BRUFF'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

(Students who wish to revise 'An Inspector Calls' and 'Macbeth' may find Mr Bruff's YouTube channel of

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interest, however please note this is relating to another exam board so will not help with specific exam skills required or our exam board. Similarly, the language videos are from AQA whereas our exam board is Eduqas.)

BARTLEBY

Bartleby publishes classic literature, poetry, non-fiction and reference texts free of charge.

GENIUS POETRY

An offshoot of Rap Genius, Lit Genius is a place where scholars have formed a community to annotate poetry and literature, both classic and recent. It's an extremely helpful resource for English literature students in particular.

PROJECT GUTENBERG

Similarly, Project Gutenberg provides free online access to texts whose copyright has expired; so far, it's digitized more than 56,000 texts

MATHS RESOURCES

x^2



The Maths Department have registered all Year 7 and 8 students for access to Times Tables Rock Stars. More information will be on SMHW from Monday 30th March but if students want to explore prior to this, they can use the link below and enter their MyMaths portal username and password.

TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS

We hope that students will use this fun and engaging online resource for 3-5 minutes every other day to improve their basic numeracy skills.

Our own Mr Harris is offering Maths sessions here:

MR HARRIS MATHS SCHOOL ON YOUTUBE

SCIENCE RESOURCES



UNPLUG THE TV

This student resource offers an alternative to TV hosting randomized videos on interesting scientific topics.

FITNESS RESOURCES



MR DJAELANI'S WORKOUT SESSIONS

Mr Djaelani has created a full fitness workout which you can follow.

JOE WICKS FITNESS VIDEOS

Joe Wicks has a range of fitness videos available on the link above.



SIXTH FORM RESOURCES

We have a wide range of wider reading for current or future Sixth Formers.

SIXTH FORM WIDER READING LISTS

DRAMA RESOURCES



PQA ACADEMY

There is a virtual academy running at the moment on their website with competitions for students only as well as lots of great things to do.

PQA ACADEMY FACEBOOK PAGE

You can also find more details on their Facebook page PQAMaidenhead

RABBLE THEATRE GROUP FACEBOOK PAGE

Every Wednesday at 12pm, they are running a variety of drama sessions online, for free.

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These will be reduced versions of what their students experience at Get Up On Stage and RABBLE Foundations Saturday School.

Wednesday 1st April, 12pm: Audition Workshop

Wednesday 8th April, 12pm: Public Speaking

Wednesday 15th April, 12pm: Voice & Breath

To view, please visit their Facebook Page on the relevant day and you will find a link to join the session.

MOOC (MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSES) RESOURCES



EDX COURSES

One of the world's leading MOOC platforms. MOOCs are offered for free to anyone wishing to learn, other major MOOC providers include Udacity.com and AcademicEarth.org.

UDACITY COURSES

ACADEMIC EARTH

GENERAL RESOURCES



PIXL

Our focus is raising standards across Key Stage 2, GCSEs and A levels and to raise self-esteem, improve life chances and broaden progression routes for all our students.

This resource is aimed at Years 10,11,12 & 13 only - students must check that they only use and refer to the relevant exam board.

RAWHIDE RESOURCES

Here you will find a number of educational websites.

COURSERA RESOURCES

Coursera covers a wide range of academic learning, allowing you to supplement your studies with some additional knowledge.

SENECA LEARNING

Seneca's Home Study programme includes free podcasts for GCSEs and A Levels, and free lessons and videos on YouTube for students.

TED TALKS RESOURCES

TED hosts thought-provoking talks given at events all over the world on the core topics of technology, entertainment and design – but in fact covering pretty much every aspect of human experience. The TED site is where you can find all the videos of these talks.

CHALLENGE RESOURCES



Fancy a challenge...?

DYSON CHALLENGE

LEARN BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE

British Sign Language are offering hugely discounted courses including paying £3 (RRP £25) for all under 18's. For full details please click the link.

GROUP RESOURCES



For group quizzes.

SPORCLE QUIZES

AROUND THE WORLD RESOURCES



MENTAL FLOSS

Good for learning interesting facts from around the world, covering topics such as food, culture and science.

FIXIT / MAKE IT RESOURCES



INSTRUCTABLES

This is one of the most useful online student resources if you like making and fixing things yourself. You can learn anything from how to make spaghetti ice-cream to how to fix a broken shelf.

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RecipePuppy allows you to search for recipes based on the ingredients you already have at home.

RECIPE PUPPY

Mrs Crisford and Miss Pound have provided recipes for some delicious dishes which you can see below. Many thanks and well done to all students who have practised their cookery skills and sent in photos!

YEAR 7 FRUIT CRUMBLE

There have been some terrific photos of fruit crumbles are making at home. Fancy having a go? The recipe is:

Apple and Sultana Crumble

Ingredients 100g plain flour 50g butter or margarine

50g oats 25g sugar 2 eating apples 50g sultanas

Equipment

Weighing scales, mixing bowl, wooden spoon, chopping board, knife, oven proof dish/foil tray, baking tray.

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 190oC or gas mark 5.
2. Rub in the butter or margarine into the flour until it resembles breadcrumbs.
3. Stir in the oats and sugar.
4. Peel the apples.
5. Cut the apples into quarters and remove the core. Slice thinly.
6. Arrange the apple slices in the oven proof dish/ foil tray on a baking tray and then add the sultanas.
7. Add 2 tablespoons of water to the apples.
8. Sprinkle the crumble topping over the apple slices.
9. Bake for 25-30 minutes, until the apple is soft and the crumble is golden.

Top tips

- Add a little water to the apples.
- Be creative and experiment with other fruits, such as blackberries, apricots, raspberries, peaches, nectarines, plums or pears.
- You may wish to use canned apple or another type of canned or dried fruit.
- Try using wholemeal flour for the crumble topping or use muesli instead of oats.

Skills

- + Using the oven
- + Rubbing in
- + Combining/mixing
- + Coring
- + Claw grip
- + Weighing
- + Bridge hold



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NO EGGS NO PROBLEM BANANA BREAD

By Miss Pound



This week I attach a 'No eggs No problem' recipe with all my groups from Years 7-13, as having some fun in these times is essential! I am so pleased so many have had a go and these are just a few pictures of pupils' work I have received.

If you're at home have a go at the recipe and do some baking - if you want to alter the recipe you could add some cocoa powder in replacement of some of the flour to add a little extra sweetness.

INGREDIENTS

DRY INGREDIENTS

180 gms self raising flour

1¼ tsp of baking powder
or baking soda

1½ tsp of cinnamon (optional)

WET INGREDIENTS

3 mashed up bananas, overripe bananas

60 ml (I used vegetable oil)

90 ml natural yogurt

125 g sugar

METHOD

Warm up the oven to 175° C and line a 900 g / 2 lb cake tin with baking paper (or 12 Muffin cases if you prefer).

Move the oven rack a notch down from the middle position.

Combine well mashed up bananas with oil, yogurt and sugar in a large bowl. Mix very well.

In a smaller bowl, combine all the dry ingredients.

Add dry ingredients to the wet ones in three batches, mixing well each time. Mix until there is no dry flour left, but do not overmix (that's only important if you are using a flour containing gluten)!

Transfer the cake batter into the prepared baking tin or muffin cases. It should be fairly thick.

Bake for about 20-25 minutes if you put it into the Muffin cases or 50-55 minutes if using a loaf tin. Or until a toothpick comes out fairly clean (this cake should be moist).

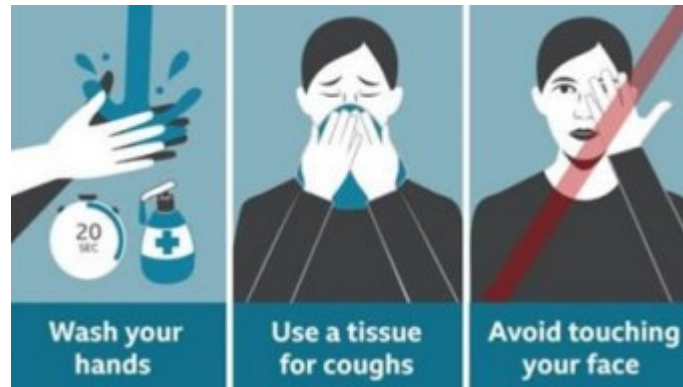
Let the cake cool down completely and ENJOY!



STAY SAFE

In the meantime, please look after yourselves, your loved ones and the wider community by taking the steps below and following advice from Public Health England.

GOVERNMENT WEBSITE- PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND



Furze Platt Coronavirus help

If you, or somebody you know needs help during the Covid-19 pandemic then we are here to help.

What can we help with?

- Food Collection
- Prescriptions help
- Food Share Deliveries
- Other help when needed (please ask)

*If you require help or want to get involved,
please email:*

FURZEPLATTHELP@OUTLOOK.COM

*Cllr Reynolds &
Cllr del Campo*

On behalf of Furze Platt community help team





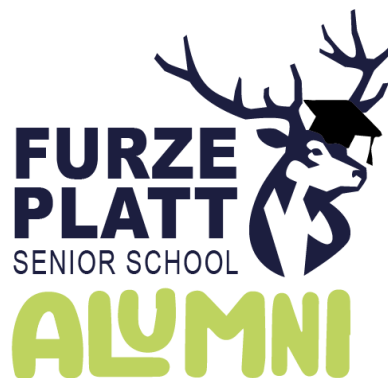
[COVID.JOINZOE.COM](https://www.covid.joinzoe.com)

You can take 1-minute to self-report daily, even if you are well.

Help scientists identify:

- High-risk areas in the UK.
- Who is most at risk, by better understanding symptoms linked to underlying health conditions.
- How fast the virus is spreading in your area.

You are contributing to advance research on COVID-19 in partnership with leading scientific institutions like King's College London and the Twins Study, one of the most clinically detailed studies in the world.



[JOIN OUR YEAR 13 ALUMNI](#)

[JOIN OUR YEAR 11 ALUMNI](#)

Free Daily Resources For Children



PE with Joe Wicks On YouTube

Week days at 9am but you can visit any time on youtube to view the workout.



Wildlife With with Steve Backshall On Facebook

Every day at 9:30am for answering all your wildlife, biology, conservation, geography and exploration questions.



Science with Maddie Moate on YouTube

Weekdays 11am. Maddie & Greg chat about science and nature!



Dance with Oti Mabuse On Facebook

Every day at 11.30am but children can view the class at any time.



Maths With Carol Vorderman

Free access to the her maths website:
www.themathsfactor.com

Music with Myleene Klass on YouTube

Twice a week.



Storytime With David Walliams

Free story everyday at 11am on his website:
www.worldofdavidwalliams.com

For More Ideas Join Our Facebook Group
Extreme Couponing and Bargains UK Group

Last updated 24th March 2020

AND FINALLY...HEROES

Last term our Year 8 created posters inspired by their heroes. The project was called 'We Need More Heroes' and initially found them debating who or what deserved to have a hero status. The suggestions included anime characters, animals, mums and dads, friends, singers, nurses and politicians. Pupils then developed a portrait drawing of their hero paying particular attention to the shadows found in the faces. A sequence of collage tasks followed which required the pupils to include colours and symbols/objects related to or used by their heroes. Finally, they

had to include a slogan, a word that would summarise or draw attention to their heroes' achievements.

As you can see, we have a very talented bunch of Year 8 students who have produced fantastic eye-catching pieces of artwork. There are many more and when the time comes we will celebrate all their examples in an exhibition on our gallery walls. Well done Year 8!

Mr B Goswell, Teacher of Art



Furze Platt Senior School - Year 8 - We Need More Heroes 2020