

Hove Junior School Newsletter

Children

Tuesday 2nd June 2020



Dear Children,

Welcome back and I hope you had an enjoyable half term holiday in the sun. We realise lots of things are still very different right now and that we need to do things in a different way.

Some of you have been at school but most of you have been at home with your families. I know that some of you have had a good time but that, at times, there have been difficult days or moments when things have felt tricky and you miss being at school.

We know how much you miss your friends and being together as a class. Everything you are feeling is normal to feel and we are all experiencing a rainbow of different emotions that can change from day to day. All of us need to be kind to ourselves and each other and make sure we talk about how we are feeling.

During this time at home we've all definitely tried to focus on the 'here and now' and finding happiness in the small things in life. For me that's been running in the park as part of my daily exercise, watching my sunflowers grow from the seeds my daughter gave me for mother's day and spending time with my children. We've loved seeing and hearing about your 'moments of happiness' so please keep sharing your photos with us.

It has been a joy to see all of your work on Google Classroom and I've loved reading the Anne Frank research Year 6 pupils have shared with us. Thank you for being patient and working so hard.

Best Wishes

Mrs Southern & Mrs Cummings

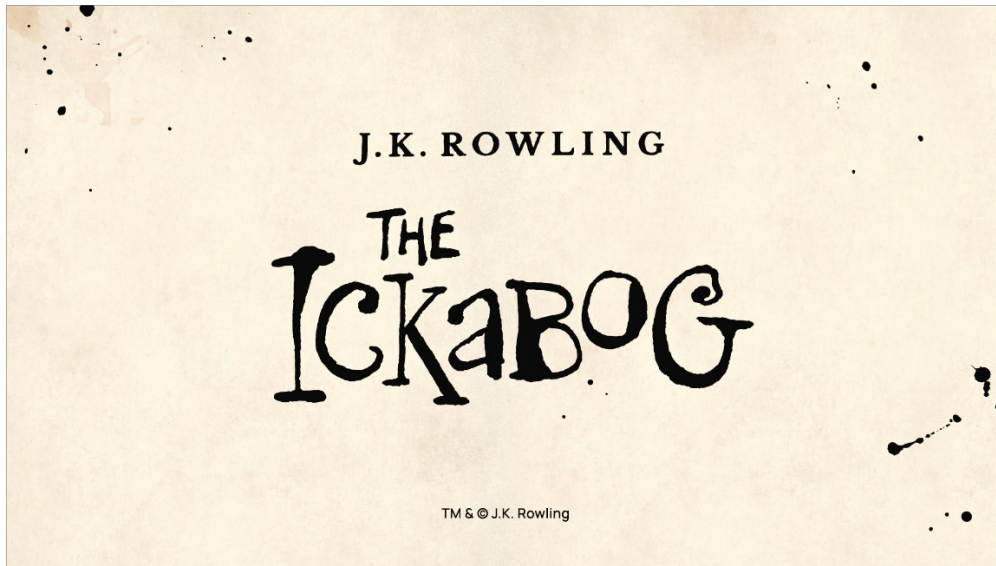


J.K. Rowling Illustration Competition

J.K. Rowling has started an illustration competition for her new book, *The Ickabog*, which is free to download from The Ickabog website. All the details are below.

26 MAY 2020

J.K. Rowling Introduces The Ickabog



About The Ickabog

The idea for *The Ickabog* came to me while I was still writing Harry Potter. I wrote most of a first draft in fits and starts between Potter books, intending to publish it after *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

However, after the last Potter book I wanted to take a break from publishing, which ended up lasting five years. In that time I wrote *The Casual Vacancy* and Robert Galbraith wrote *The Cuckoo's Calling*. After some dithering (and also after my long-suffering agent had trademarked The Ickabog – sorry, Neil) I decided I wanted to step away from children's books for a while. At that point, the first draft of *The Ickabog* went up into the attic, where it's remained for nearly a decade. Over time I came to think of it as a story that belonged to my two younger children, because I'd read it to them in the evenings when they were little, which has always been a happy family memory.

A few weeks ago at dinner, I tentatively mooted the idea of getting *The Ickabog* down from the attic and publishing it for free, for children in lockdown. My now teenagers were touchingly enthusiastic, so downstairs came the very dusty box, and for the last few weeks I've been immersed in a fictional world I thought I'd never enter again. As I worked to finish the book, I started reading chapters nightly to the family again. This was one of the most extraordinary experiences of my writing life, as *The Ickabog's* first two readers told me what they remember from when they were tiny, and demanded the reinstatement of bits they'd particularly liked (I obeyed).

I think *The Ickabog* lends itself well to serialisation because it was written as a read-aloud book (unconsciously shaped, I think, by the way I read it to my own children), but it's suitable for 7-9 year olds to read to themselves.

I'll be posting a chapter (or two, or three) every weekday between 26th May and 10th July on [The Ickabog website](#). We plan to publish some translations soon and will post further details on that website when they're available.

The Ickabog is a story about truth and the abuse of power. To forestall one obvious question: the idea came to me well over a decade ago, so it isn't intended to be read as a response to anything that's happening in the world right now. The themes are timeless and could apply to any era or any country.

The Illustration Competition

Having decided to publish, I thought how wonderful it would be if children in lockdown, or otherwise needing distraction during the strange and difficult time we're passing through, illustrated the story for me. There will be suggestions about the illustrations we might need for each chapter on *The Ickabog* website, but nobody should feel constrained by these ideas. I want to see imaginations run wild! Creativity, inventiveness and effort are the most important things: we aren't necessarily looking for the most technical skill!

In November 2020, *The Ickabog* will be published in English in print, eBook and audiobook formats, shortly followed by other languages. The best drawings in each territory will be included in the finished books. As publishers in each territory will need to decide which pictures work best for their own editions, I won't be personally judging the entries. However, if parents and guardians post their children's drawing on Twitter using the hashtag #TheIckabog, I'll be able to share and comment! To find out more about the Illustration Competition, go to [The Ickabog website](#).

Covid-19 Donation

I'm pledging all author royalties from *The Ickabog*, when published, to help groups who've been particularly impacted by the pandemic. Further details will be available later in the year.

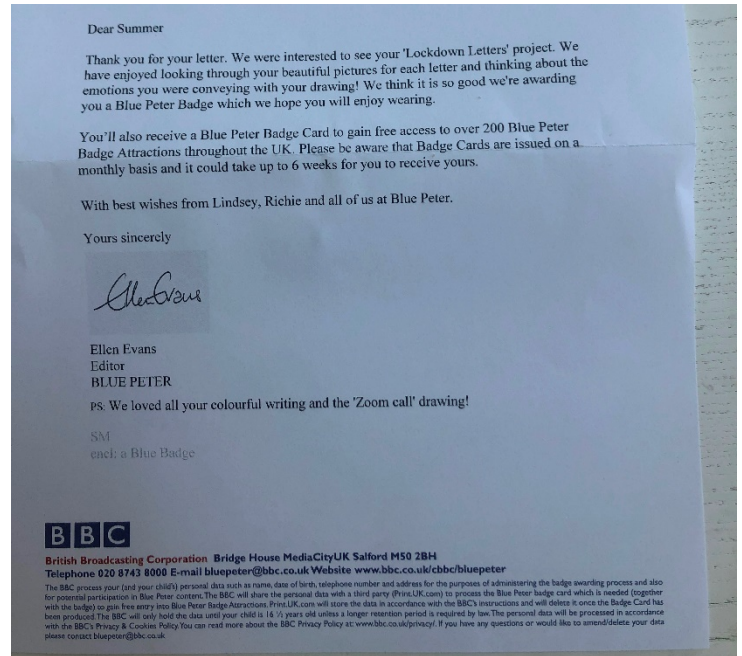
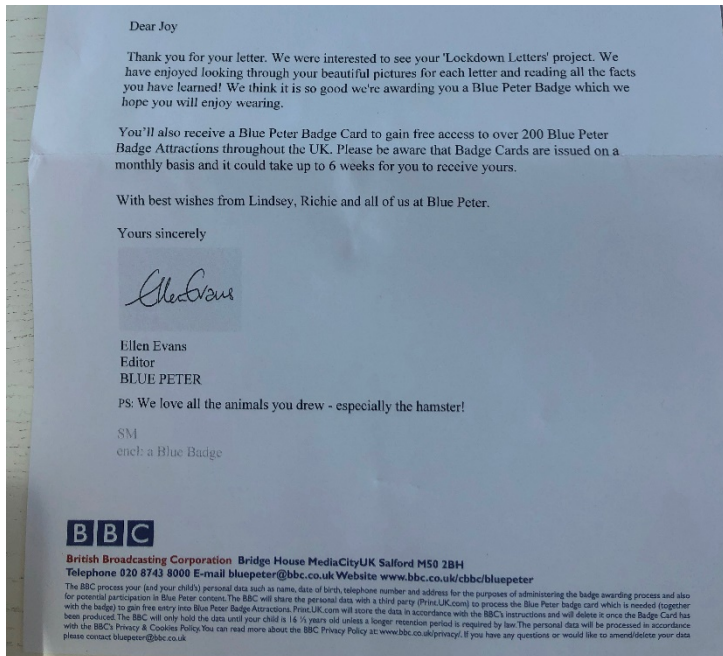
Huge thanks are due...

... to my dear friend and editor Arthur Levine; to the phenomenal James McKnight of the Blair Partnership, who's worked tirelessly to make this project a reality in a very short space of time; to Ruth Alltimes at Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, whose help has been invaluable; to my peerless management team, Rebecca Salt, Nicky Stonehill and Mark Hutchinson and to my wonderful agent Neil Blair. I promise all of you not to have any more bright ideas for a few months at least.



Blue Peter Drawing Challenge

Congratulations to Joy (5B) and Summer (5R) who received Blue Peter badges after completing a 26 day, A-Z drawing challenge. They both received personal letters in recognition of their hard work. Fantastic!



Anne Frank Biographies

Year 6 have been doing some fantastic work creating biographies on the life of Anne Frank. Included below is an excellent example from Angus (6 Blue). Well done!



This week's biography is about Anne Frank, the world-famous German diarist. Even 75 years after her death, her *Diary of a Young Girl* is one of the most-read books in history.

BY **ANGUS BOURN**

Anne Frank always wanted to be a famous writer, and in a way she was – although she didn't live to see it. She was a Jewish girl who lived during the Holocaust in World War II. Anne and her family went into hiding because mistreatment of Jews was becoming worse and worse. She wrote a diary whilst in hiding which helps us understand what Jews' lives were like in the Holocaust. Even today, 75 years later, her words are read by millions of people worldwide and are an inspiration to people fighting prejudice and racism.

Early life

Anne was born Annelies Marie Frank on the 12th June 1929 in Frankfurt, Germany. She lived with her parents, Edith and Otto, a businessman who worked in the spice trade, and her older sister, Margot. The Franks moved to the Netherlands in the Autumn of 1933, when Anne was just four years old, because the Nazis (a political party led by Adolf Hitler) had come to power in Germany.

"I can remember that as early as 1932, groups of Storm Troopers came marching by, singing, 'When Jewish blood splatters from the knife,'" Otto later recalled.

**“
Love, what
is love?
I don't think
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really put it
into words**

Hitler did not like Jewish people because he believed that they were a different ethnicity who didn't fit his philosophy of the perfect race.

"Because we're Jewish, my father immigrated to Holland in 1933, where he became the managing director of the Dutch Opekta Company, which manufactures products used in making jam," said Anne. The family lived in Amsterdam for nine years. In 1940 the Germans invaded the Netherlands, however, and prejudice against Jews spread. Two years later, the conditions were so bad that the Franks were forced into hiding.

The Secret Annexe

When Anne and her family went into hiding, they moved into a secret annexe (the entrance of which was concealed behind a bookcase) above Otto's workplace. On 13 July 1942, the Franks were joined by the Van Pels, a family made up of Hermann, Auguste and 16-year-old Peter. He had a brief romance with Anne, giving her her first kiss, although the relationship ended when Anne started questioning whether she truly loved him or whether it was only because of their shared confinement.

'Love, what is love? I don't think you can really put it into words. Love is understanding someone, caring for him, sharing his joys and sorrows. This eventually includes physical love. You've shared something, given something away and received something in return, whether or not you're married, whether or not you have a baby. Losing your virtue doesn't matter, as long as you know that for as long as you live you'll have someone at your side who understands you, and who doesn't have to be shared with anyone else!' – Anne Frank



Anne aged 13, just before going into hiding



Anne Frank mural by Eduardo Kobra in a former shipyard, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Later that year, in November, Fritz Pfeffer (a dentist and friend of the family) came to live in the annexe with them. Six people knew about the Franks and supplied them with food, war news and political developments. One of the friends helping the family was called Miep Gies. Anne wrote, "She's also the one who brings five library books with her every Saturday... Ordinary people don't know how much books can mean to someone who's cooped up." Anne and her family lived in the annexe for two years. This was the main period chronicled in the diary.

The Diary

"I can shake off everything if I write; my sorrows disappear. My courage is reborn." — Anne Frank

Anne Frank was given a diary for her 13th birthday and called it Kitty, as she thought of the diary as her friend. She especially liked it because she wanted to be a famous writer when she grew up. Because Anne and her family had to be so quiet in the annexe, she wrote a lot in her diary. She wrote about equality, life, truth, beauty and happiness.

"In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart." — Anne Frank

Her message to herself and other people who read it is of her ideals – in other words her philosophy, which is all about fairness and kindness, and not classifying people into different groups.

"I see the world being slowly transformed into a wilderness; I hear the approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us too. I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too shall end, that

peace and tranquillity will return once more." — Anne Frank

The last time Anne Frank wrote in her diary was on 1st August 1944.

The concentration camps

The Franks were found by the Gestapo on 4th August 1944 and arrested. After a long train journey to southern Poland, they arrived at Auschwitz concentration camp in September. Otto was separated from the rest of the family immediately and forced to do manual work; he did so until the end of the war.

After two months of poor hygiene and bad living conditions at Auschwitz, Anne and Margot were transferred to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Lower Saxony, northern Germany, and their mother, Edith, died of starvation not long after they left. In February or March 1945 both Anne and Margot died of typhus just a few days apart.

"I want to go on living even after death!" — Anne Frank

I want to go on living, even after death

Anne's Legacy

Despite her short life ending in Bergen-Belsen death camp in 1945, the legacy that Anne Frank left behind continues to fascinate and resonate around the world. Her diary has been published in over 70 languages and she is a role model to young people who are facing similar problems to her's.

Anne faced discrimination and prejudice during her life – and lots of people still do – but that didn't stop her from believing that all people are good at heart, things will get better and, above all, that the world is full of beauty and wonder. And even with all the destruction that happened during World War II, that beauty was still there and was never forgotten.

"I don't think of all the misery, but of the beauty that still remains." — Anne Frank

ANNE FRANK TIMELINE

The main events of Anne's life



12th June 1929

Anne Frank is born in Frankfurt, Germany

20th March 1933

The first concentration camp opens in Germany

Autumn 1933

The Franks move to the Netherlands

1st September 1939

World War II begins

May 1940

Germany invades the Netherlands, Belgium and France

12th June 1942

Anne receives a diary for her 13th birthday

6th July 1942

The Franks go into hiding

4th August 1944

They are discovered by the Nazis

3rd September 1944

The Franks are transported to Auschwitz

End of October 1944

Anne and Margot are sent to Bergen-Belsen

February or March 1945

Anne and her sister die of typhus



25th June 1947

Otto Frank survives to publish Anne's diary