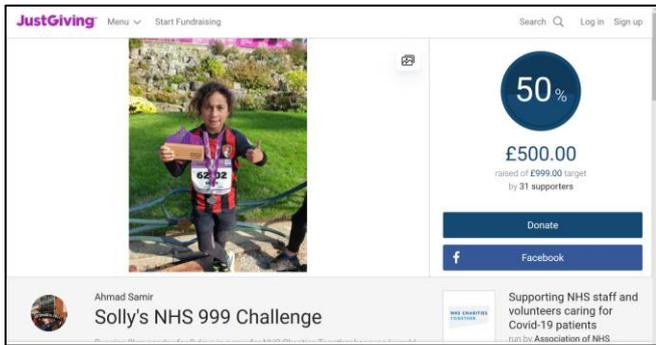




"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all well. Last week I wrote to you about some of the positives that have come out of our enforced lock down, including my own improved communication with my family. We have also seen people committing themselves to charitable activity. Many have been inspired by Captain Tom – including our very own Solly, who has committed himself to running 9km a day for 9 days in order to fundraise for NHS Charities Together. You can donate to their JustGiving page by clicking [here](#).



Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to NHS Charities Together. Well done Solly! We are very proud of you.

A Song of Gladness



I've been talking every morning to blackbird, telling him why we are all so sad at the moment. He sits on his branch and listens.

It was blackbird's idea. He sang out this morning at dawn from his treetop in the garden, to fox half asleep behind the garden shed. She thought it a good idea too. It was a wake-up call. Fox was on her feet at once, and trotting through Bluebell Wood, where she barked at the deer, who ran off across the stream. Kingfisher was there, otter and dipper too. They heard, and piped it on, and swallow swooped down over the meadow, and passed it on to cows waiting to go into their milking, and to

sheep resting quietly under the hedge with her lambs, in the corner of the dew-damp field.

And they all agreed, bleating it out to bees already busy at their flowers, to weaving spiders, and grasshoppers, and scurrying mice. Trees heard sheep calling too, the whole flock of them, and waved their budding leaves in wild enthusiasm; and high above, the clouds wandered through the skies driven by wind, and wind took blackbird's idea over the cliffs across heaving seas, where gulls and albatross cried it out, and whales and dolphins and porpoises heard it, and wailed and whooped it down into the deep, where turtles listened, and they too loved the idea. So did plankton and every fish and crab and sea urchin and whelk, they all whispered that it was a fine notion, the best they ever heard.

And the whisper went over the sea on the curling waves to the shores of Africa, where lions roared their approval, and elephants trumpeted it, leopards yawned it, water buffalo belched it, wild dogs yelped it. Wildebeest murmured it out across the savanna; and storm lifted the idea up over rainforests, where rain took it and poured it down on gorillas in the mist, on chimpanzees in their sleeping nests. Howler monkeys and gibbons echoed their calls loud over all the earth – they are that loud; and then from far up high, sun heard it too and shone it down over deserts where oryx stamped her foot, impatient to be getting on with it and doing it – she loved the idea that much. Even camel, who rarely joined in anything, thought this was the best and most beautiful idea he had ever heard.

Back in the garden, blackbird waited till everyone was ready. And then he began to sing. And the whole carnival of animals, every living thing on this good earth joined in, until the globe echoed with the joy of it.

And blackbird was very pleased.

by Michael Morpurgo



"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

Hope



The town of Hope, near Aberdeen
Is somewhere I have seldom been
But then it's not a tourist trap –
It isn't even on the map!

There's certainly not much to see
They've closed the local library
Because they said there is no need
When no-one in the town can read
They've got a pub and a hotel
But neither of them's doing well
The hotel isn't quite the Ritz
The beds have fleas: the staff have nits
The only pub, "The Rose and Crown"
Is easily the worst in town

The one theatre's sadly gone
It burned down while a play was on
(The critics thought the play so dire
That all of them preferred the fire.)
The cinema is second rate
The films are always out of date
The last James Bond film that I saw
Had Bond still played by Roger Moore.

The pavements are never clean
Because the council's far too mean
To pay for cleaners – and the park
Is only open after dark
The grass is lumpy, full of weeds
And dogs can only walk on leads
There is a children's playground but
When school is finished, it is shut

The Chief of Police is eighty-two
He can't catch crooks. He can't catch flu!
The vicar surely won't be missed
Since he's become an atheist

The mayor sold his golden chain
And then was never seen again
The local paper isn't bought
Because there's nothing to report.
The school is like a concrete bunker
Matron's drunk. The head is drunker.

Now, living here must really stink
At least, that is what you might think
But that is simply not the case
There is no more delightful place
The fun and laughter never ends
Everyone is best of friends.
And all the residents agree
There's nowhere else they'd rather be.

So if you're feeling uninspired,
Sleeping badly, waking tired
If everything is going wrong.
The day feels dark, the night's too long
Remember all the people who
Have found the following is true:

**It's so much easier to cope
If you decide to live in Hope.**

By Anthony Horowitz

Gratitude diary:

1. I was saddened this week to hear that Keda Cowling had died (she was 94). Keda was the creator of 'Toe by Toe' a reading scheme to help children to develop a love of reading. I am incredibly grateful for the amazing work of this brilliant educator.
2. I am grateful for the wonderful spell of weather that we have had – although I would like some rain for my garden.
3. I am grateful for Knoll Gardens who delivered some new plants that are now planted in my borders.



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Get Arty!

Miss Grant came across this idea and wondered if anyone from Parkfield could create their own rainbow art using found objects in your home. Send a photo of your artwork to the office email address.



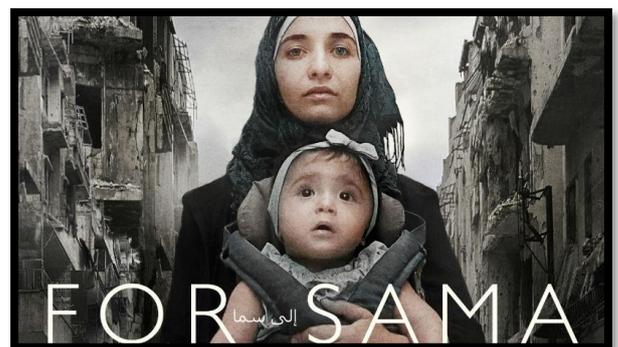
Look at the work of artist and photographer Emily Blincoe. Create a collection of objects to make your own rainbow in support of the NHS. Use your phone to record your work and send it to your art teacher.

between the ultra-conservative Pope Benedict XVI and the liberal future Pope Francis.



The main characters are brilliantly played by Anthony Hopkins and Jonathan Pryce. If you like action, adventure and intrigue – this is probably not the film for you. However, I would wholeheartedly recommend it, don't take my word for it, Ian Freer in Empire Magazine says that "Meirelles (The Director) takes a two-handed chamber piece and makes it fly".

Secondly, I would recommend 'For Sama' (All 4 – Channel 4), Syrian film-maker Waad al-Kateab documents an epic and intimate journey filmed through five years of the uprising in Aleppo, Syria. Waad al-Kateab tells the story of how she fell in love, married and gave birth to her daughter Sama.



Help for home learning:

StarLine is available to parents and carers of pupils from all schools nationwide. Free, confidential advice is available six days a week by 'phoning the StarLine team on 0330 313 9162. For more information, visit www.starline.org.uk or follow [@StarLineSupport](https://twitter.com/StarLineSupport) on Twitter.

The team behind StarLine will also be broadcasting a weekly programme on YouTube. In each episode of StarLive, a guest presenter will share practical ideas for home learning. Further details can be found on the StarLine website.

Films worth watching:

I want to recommend two films that I have seen over the last couple of months that I thought were wonderful, for very different reasons. The first is 'The Two Popes' (Netflix) The film tracks the relationship

Mark Kermode reviewing the film for The Guardian noted "While much of the material may be shocking it's the simple human interactions that really hit home – the day-to-day comradeship of women stoically preparing food while fire falls from the sky; the resilience of children who still smile and play even as their lives are threatened". This is not a film for the faint hearted, it is suitable for older teenagers and adults who can cope with heartache.