



Laleham Gap School

Learning; growing; succeeding - together!



April 2021

Spring Issue

Bug expert 'honoured' to talk to LGS fly enthusiast

A budding entomologist from Laleham Gap School has won the praise of **Dr Erica McAlister**, the Natural History Museum's curator for Diptera. **Eveline** from Year 3 Panthers Class shared her knowledge for insects in a digital group discussion with Dr McAlister; so impressed was the renowned expert with Eveline's passion for entomology that she arranged a one to one Zoom call with her to talk more about their shared love and fascination with the world of insects.

Turn to **Page 5** to find out more about Eveline's interest in insects and the impact her virtual meeting with Dr McAlister has had on her.



Spring at LGS

What's Inside



10LD raise £600 for Charity

Turn to Page 5 for details

Primary Children learn to EXPRESS themselves as part of mental health wellbeing week!



More pics on Page 5

And much, much more ...

World Book Day fun at LGS



Turn to Pages 8 & 9 for more pics

Headteacher's Letter

It has been another exciting, but unique term. The impact of Covid have been obvious and has limited our usual range of activities and events. However, you can see from this newspaper a number of great activities and events in school have been held. St David's Day is a personal favourite of mine. The onset of spring has added energy and hope to our vision of the future.

There has been masses of media and government announcements regarding the cancelling of exams. However, some examinations have continued and we were delighted by the iGCSE results in Maths. Well done everybody. Functional skills exams in Maths, English and Computing also went well.

I want to take this opportunity to say well done to all students for their hard work and commitment during this difficult time. There have been some magnificent pieces of work completed, including the great stuff we're sharing with you in this Spring Issue.

I also want to take the opportunity to thank the flexibility and continuing commitment of all staff. Our cleaners



have worked tirelessly, our kitchen staff have had more changes to routines than I've had hot dinners, and teachers and teaching assistants have coped admirably with designing, implementing and responding to all the required changes.

I wish you a great Easter holiday. I hope that you are all safe and well at this time and I look forward to seeing you all in the summer term.

Les Milton

A snowy Chinese New Year

By **Sam L-W.**

On Friday, one week of Post 16, **Caragh** and I went into school in the snow and there was snow on the ground it was icy. There was only Caragh and I there with the staff members.

We celebrated Chinese New Year, the year of the Ox, and Caragh and I cooked that day. Caragh cooked prawn toast, that **Mrs Moody** doesn't like the smell of prawns and I will get a big lip because when I eat a prawn I will have a slight reaction to prawns, and I made a chicken stir-fry that was yummy. There was also prawn crackers and a duck spring roll.

Mr Ursell almost ate all the prawn crackers! It was fun to see Caragh and the staff at Post 16 again. It was very peaceful without everyone else. Caragh and I didn't have dear time which was sad because we needed to clean up after ourselves because we are Post 16 now. I loved our day.



Staff Spotlight



Mr Blyth

Interview by **Chloe and Pippa**

How long have you been a teacher for?

Mr Blyth: I became a teacher in 2006 and I started teaching at LGS eight years ago.

What is teaching during these times like - is it hard to teach via a screen?

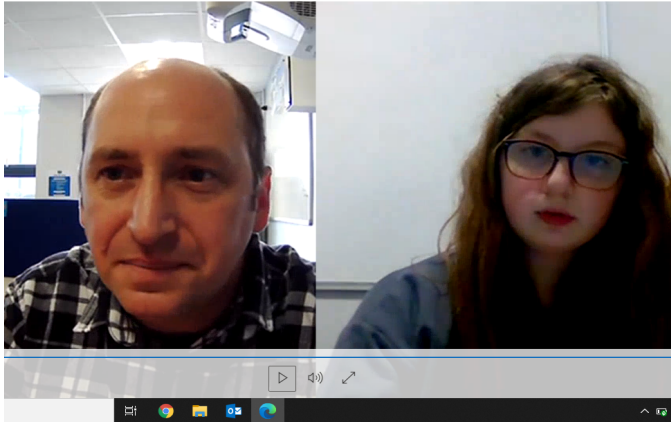
Mr Blyth: It's been very difficult to teach young children via a screen as lots of our learning involves being in the room together and playing. It's been a challenge and quite different but that's good because I like a challenge and I like doing different things.

What measures have had to been put in place in your classroom to help the children stay safe?

Mr Blyth: Well, I wear a clear face shield and sometimes a face mask in class. There has been lots more cleaning, using sprays and paper towels. We've kept windows and doors open, even though it has been a bit drafty at times and we go outside as much as we can. We spread out when we're eating and we wash our hands a lot! The thing in Jaguars we have missed most is singing. We like singing and it's good for our language and thinking but we have not been able to do this in class because it could help spread the virus through air-borne particles. We want to keep our classroom fresh.

Continued overleaf

Staff Profile, continued



What do you think you will be doing in school in September?

Mr Blyth: We'll be welcoming new children into school in Spetember which will be ...wonderful. I am really hoping we can sing more together and that it wont be long before we don't have to wear face masks and shields and that we can get close to do our learning in a way that helps children the most. Fingers crossed!

What is your best memory of this year so far?

Mr Blyth: It has been welcoming the children back in January and seeing them back in school. We have just kept going and that's great!

Pippa & Chloe: Thank you very much Mr Blyth for sharing your time with us and answering our questions.

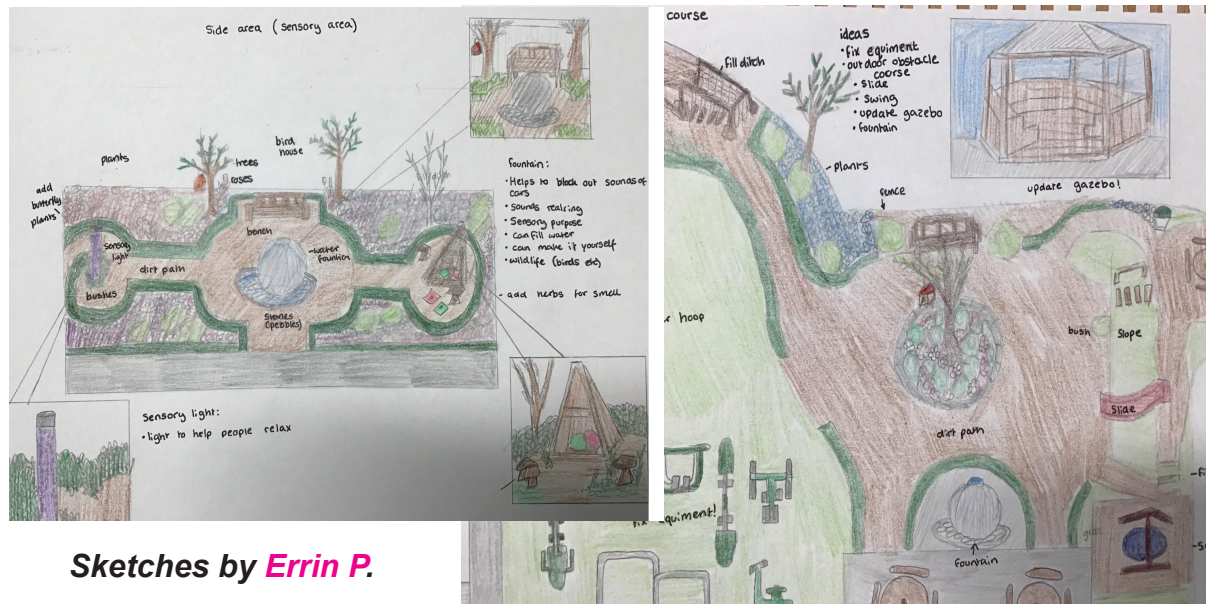
Mr Blyth: Thank you for your great questions. I've really enjoyed talking to you and if you want to ask anything else about us down here please get in touch.

Learning to share ideas

LGS News team has created a new feature called '**Students' Corner.**' This is a space for students to open a debate on something they care about. **Tom H.** in Year 10 has kicked off the discussion in this issue with his thoughts on politics.

Turn to **Page 10** to read more.

School Council develop plans for outside space



Sketches by Errin P.

Raising money for Red Nose Day

By Caragh P.

Post 16 celebrated Red Nose Day with baking cupcakes and decorating them and doing a Quiz whilst the others bake in the Kitchen.

We were making money whilst selling the cakes and I didn't need change as it was for Charity. Comic Relief is a good day to sell the cakes as it is all for Charity to help people in need and who deserve it most.

I really enjoyed doing cooking as it's fun and good to do in general! After, we had our cupcakes we sat down to watch a Netflix show that Leah put on for some of us whilst the others did word searches at the table.

I enjoyed offering them to my neighbour and her boyfriend, Adam. Jenni really liked hers and I gave her the biggest slice! Adam said “they were gorgeous!” And I was so happy that they enjoyed them.

My mum couldn't have much but tried a tiny bit of it as she's on a diet and my dad scoffed his down in an instant! I was glad everybody liked them and that they were sweet and delicious. I would definitely like to help out more in the Kitchen with cooking as I really do find it fun! And we have raised lots of money for Comic Relief!!

Turn to **Page 5** for more on Red Nose Day





Horses and me

By *Amelia H.*

Today I want to share something that I think is important with you and that something is horses. Horses are not just horses they are your best friends and they stick with you through the good times and the bad.

I know that when you get scared they get scared, when you get tense they get tense, and when you are calm they are calm. They are not just animals, they feel what you are feeling.

I have a horse called *Blue* who me and my friend *Fay* share. He passed away in December because he got his foot stuck in some fencing and his head was in the lake. It was the hardest thing and I was upset for days. So you see horses are not just animals or as some say 'bests', they are your soul mate or what me and my friend *Poppy* say, partners in crime.

I now have a horse called *Tyson* but we call him *Berty* because it suits him more. I have had him since I was six and I have one so mean shoes on him we have this bond that can never wear off. But he is out on loan at the moment to my mum's friend Harriot. He goes for hour long hacks basically every day. He loves life.

Well that was me saying how great horses are.



Dogs are better than cats

By *Cameron B.*

I will be talking about why dogs are better than cats. Cats aren't bad because they put the mouse population down but in my opinion dogs are better.

Dogs are more loyal and cuter while cats look the same. It's always fluffy or soft nothing else and their face looks the same also the colours are always brown or white or black while dogs have different size faces like pugs and different colours and speed.

I have a pug and he is not the fastest but my Nan has a Springer Spaniel and he is really fast.

Cats are also selfish and in my opinion only love humans because they give them food but dogs stay with their owners until the end.

Plus dogs are really funny because of how dumb they are, not all dogs are dumb but it's funny when they bark at cars because they are trying to protect us even though we don't need their protection.

Dogs come in different styles is well, like if a dog is a family dog or guard dog.

Also dogs help humans by calming us down (which is a fact) and for blind people help us move around. How many cats do you see helping blind people?

Thank you for listening to me speak, that was my opinion. You don't have to like dogs or hate cats unless you do, I just like dogs more probably because I have one.

Exercise to live life

By *Frankie P.*

I love Exercise because I can get all of my stress out and I do it all over the place, on the field, at school, at my house, in my garden and I can do it whenever. It's healthy for everyone and you do it without knowing anyone who is involved. You can start anytime and it's fun, and everyone needs fresh air. I like it because you can't just sit around and do nothing.

Do something with your life. If you want it to get better you have to do it to experience it. I am sick and tired of people telling me to get fit when they need to take their own advice and live life.

I am sharing this because loads of people are just on technology.

Thank you for listening to my concern.

Young people at LGS Express themselves as part of Children's Mental Health Week

Primary children express themselves



10LD in marathon walk for Red Nose Day

By Miss Dixon

10LD decided to get themselves fitter for Spring, by walking a marathon around the school field.

Mrs McEwan calculated that if we all walked 14 laps around the field then we would collectively have completed the marathon distance of 26.2 miles.



Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the staff here at school and our family members we managed to raise £600 !!

Student Spotlight



Eveline
Panthers



Drosophila
Image courtesy of: bitesizebio.com

m.facebook.com

I have just had the honour of chattin...

Dr Erica McAlister
13 mins · 🌐

⋮

I have just had the honour of chatting with a 9-year old entomologist that her mother (Selina Rose) organised. Eveline has been reading my fly books as her bedtime story (!!) books and look, she even goes to sleep hugging a Drosophila!

Its an absolute pleasure to talk (and laugh) to upcoming entomologists like Eveline, on subjects such as flies, the impact of pesticides on insects, as well as her pet cockroaches (of which there are many). Here's to Eveline!

Selina Armstrong Erica McAlister

❤️ Love

💬 Comment

➦ Share



Image courtesy of: www.nhm.ac.uk

Winning 'Return to School' poster

Laleham Gap School News

Getting back to school is good for children as they can meet their friends and get back from being bored at home to having "fun with friends"



Congratulations to **Matthew J.** & **Sam S.**

'Design a Jumper' winners



DRESS TO EXPRESS

THIS CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



The Tales of Ronnie and Arnie

By **Harvey W.**

Exclusive new writing!

01/03/2021

I woke up in a small hut with my brother, **Ronnie**. All I could hear was people talking and constant clicking, and I felt scared. Why had I come here? Was I going back home soon? Maybe me and my brother will settle in after a little while. There's only one way to find out.

02/03/2021

Today me and my brother **Arnie** were held and stroked by a lot of people. To be perfectly honest, I'm a bit scared of being held. I think my brother is, too. So, when they put us back in our cage, we hid under the hay for a little while. People were trying to see where we were in the cage, and that scared me a lot.

03/03/2021

Today me and my brother Ronnie were suddenly picked up and held by people two times! I really hate being picked up, but this gave me a chance to see where all those clicking sounds were coming from. It was a giant black board that was holding up a screen. I think they call it a computer. I was then picked up by someone else all of a sudden, and they kept telling me to stay still. I saw what I think the humans call a phone in front of me. And then I was picked up again and taken to some strange place. I wonder how my brother Ronnie is coping with this...

Today the humans wanted to hold me and Arnie again. I'm already used to this, but I'm not sure my brother Arnie likes being held. In fact, I saw him try to escape from someone's hands today. I think they were cleaning our cage today, but I'm not sure why they would do that. Anyway, I was held by a kid that I think they call **Dylan**. He had what I think the humans call a laptop, and he was doing something strange on there. I think he was clicking this dog that could hit a rock with this strange tool. I heard hay being dumped into our now empty



cage, and Arnie started trying to escape the hands of who was holding him. Hopefully later we will be able to talk about our experiences from today.

04/03/2021

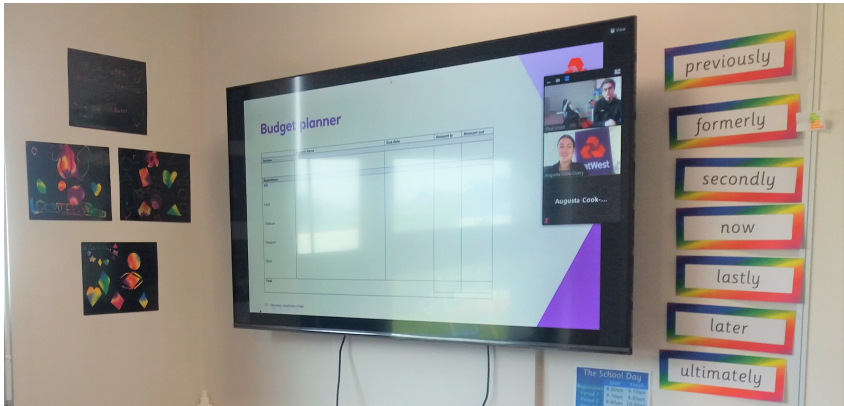
Today, I was woken up from a nice nap by people. I immediately ran into my tube, but they were still trying to see what I was doing. I then ran into my brother's hut. Me and my brother were soon picked up again and someone asked about writing in our diary. I'm not sure what that's about, but my brother Ronnie was completely fine. People then began talking about animals. On a completely separate note, I think my brother said something about this thing called Hinduism, which the people in the room were learning about. I'm not really sure how he's doing right now, but I'm sure he's fine...



Look out for further adventures of Arnie and Ronnie in the summer issue ...

Post 16 News

See Page 11 for more Post 16 news



Natwest Personal Finance Workshops

By Adam G.

In Post 16, NatWest are doing online sessions via Zoom, about for example, managing finances, banking, money words such as APR which means Annual Percentage Rate etc. The course is called *Sustainable Banking Financial Foundation* workshop. Its focussed on budgeting and personal finances.

The person leading the session is called **Augusta**, and she’s delivering 4 sessions here. So far, we have done 2 sessions of it and learnt a lot already. We find it very important because, it will help you when you become an adult and start earning your own money and your own job.

Out and about

By Dora E. & William P.

Post 16 lucky for us we went out and about and we went on the mini bus. And then finally we went in the park **George VI** and we saw some birds as well we saw parakeets and crows.

First we went down to Dumpton Gap beach and we played on the rock pools. We went near the sea plus the beach was sandy. On Monday the 29th March 2021 Post 16 walked across the Dumpton Gap Beach to George the v1 park and they took photos of Parakeet’s and Crows and even saw a squirrel.

Next we saw the old primary school where some of us went when we were young. We also saw the old primary school and it made me feel very happy.

Celebrating World Book Day

By Caragh P.

On 5th March the 4 people that were currently in Post 16, who were me, **Sam**, **Dora** and **William**, all dressed up for World Book Day! I was a Nun from Call the Midwife, Sam was Morticia from the Addams Family, Dora was Wonder Woman and William was “Duck” the train from Thomas the Tank Engine! Some Staff wore Thomas the Tank Engines hats with William and **Mr Ursell** was “The Cat in the Hat!”

What we did that day was we celebrated by doing a Quiz and had Mr Ursell reading a poem called “Chocolate Cake by **Michael Rosen**” which was a good one to listen to and pretty funny.

My favourite part of the day was when we all came into school in our costumes and were in classes most of the day dressed up as our chosen book characters which I found was fun.

I enjoyed the day because it’s the only day we get to go to school dressed up as someone we like from a Book, I have never read the Call the Midwife book I’ve only seen a bit of the TV programme with my mum who enjoys it. I would definitely give it a try.

My parents got a photo of me before I went into School that morning and my mum made a joke by putting the photo caption as “It’s Nun of Your Business!” which made me chuckle.



**Post 16
express
themselves**

A collage of 15 photos showing various people in costumes and masks. The photos are arranged in a grid-like fashion. The top row features a man in a grey coat and beret, a woman in a blue mask and grey coat, a man in a blue mask and grey coat, and a woman in a blue mask and grey coat. The middle row shows a man in a blue mask and grey coat, a woman in a blue mask and grey coat, a man in a blue mask and grey coat, and a woman in a blue mask and grey coat. The bottom row includes a man in a blue mask and grey coat, a woman in a blue mask and grey coat, a man in a blue mask and grey coat, and a woman in a blue mask and grey coat. The text 'Love Reading!' is overlaid in the bottom right corner.

The Masked Reader

- Mrs Alcock & Miss Tomlinson
- Miss Care
- Mr Clements
- Miss Dixon
- Mr Donnelly
- Miss Eastwood
- Mrs James
- Mr Kelly
- Mr Lithman
- Ms Moore
- Mrs Peppin
- Mrs Posnett
- Mrs May
- Mr Milton
- Mr Ralph
- Mr Saker
- Mr Ursell

Reading at LGS

As part of our celebrations of World Book Day, Mrs Alcock and Miss Tomlinson filmed staff members reading from favourite books.

Can you match the names with the images?



Answers: 1. Mrs Alcock and Miss Tomlinson; 2. Mr Saker; 3. Miss Eastwood; 4. Mr Donnelly; 5. Mrs Posnett; 6. Mr Kelly; 7. Mr Lithman; 8. Mrs James; 9. Mrs Peppin; 10. Ms Moore; 11. Mrs May; 12. Mrs Posnett; 13. Mr Milton; 14. Miss Dixon; 15. Miss Care; 16. Mr Clements; 17. Mr Ursell.

Future Masterchefs practise their skills



Celebrating special events at LGS

LGS students have been noting and celebrating a number of cultural events throughout the Spring Term. These include *Chinese New Year*, *St David's Day*, *St. Patrick's Day*, *International Women's Day*, *World Autism Awareness Week*, to name a few.

The whole LGS community also took part in the *National Remembrance Day* to remember everyone affected by Covid 19 and to pay tribute to people across the world who have worked tirelessly to help us through the pandemic.

Cooking plays an important part in celebrating our shared cultures. For example, Post 16 students marked the Chinese New Year by cooking a delicious range of Chinese dishes.



A leek-wielding Welsh dragon

As always, many staff and students enjoyed taking part and dressing up in the usual and not so usual national costumes and colours of *St. David* and *St. Patrick*.

"The Fellowship of Controversy"

Lord Soper



Courtesy of: www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures

Thomas H.

Year 10

Hello! My name is *Thomas*. I've been at LGS since Year 4, so seven years.

My memorable moments at Primary school include having fun with my mates - riding bikes at break times. And helping to look after Reception kids as well. I volunteered to help with the younger pupils because back then I had a lot more patience with children. And they did listen to me.

My aspiration now is to go into politics and fight for Britain on a political stage for British national identity. I hope to join a party and gain support of the people from my local area and I see myself as an MP in fifteen years' time.

My political hero is *Ronald Reagan*, a past President of the United States of America. He is my hero because he made his country great. My favourite pastime is discussing political issues with people. My dream place to live would be the deep South of the USA but as a future politician I would like to live somewhere in the south of England to be close to my friends and family.

My favourite motto is: "Treat the word IMPOSSIBLE as nothing more than motivation."

[Responses welcomed for Summer Issue]



Post 16 darts

By Adam G.



the board. We like to stick to our own pack of darts so it keeps it fair and so other people don't keep using it. I always lose, but I want to practice more which I'm doing already. I play with Hayden a lot and he's good at it, because he hit the bullseye 3 times and I haven't hit it yet, I'm still waiting.



In Post 16, we started a new activity to do in our enrichment time. We decided to play some darts and we have proper equipment for it. We try to beat the teachers, but they always end up some how beating us, its not fair! Especially that Mr Ursell, he shouldn't play, he's too good.

We play different ways to play, we play 501, killer and around

Running our daily mile

By Dora E.

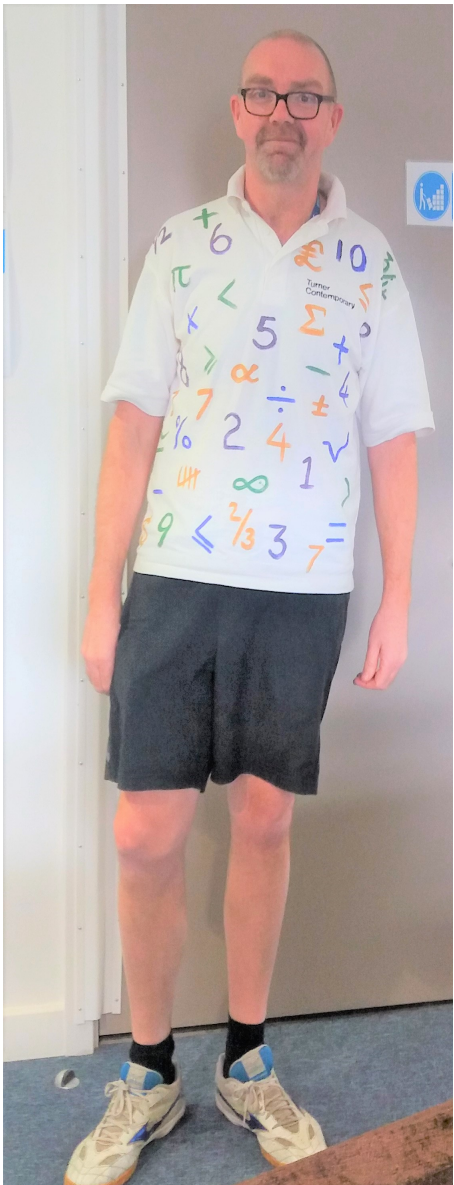
In September at Post 16 we started to walk or run around the Phoenix building for our daily exercise. We had a chart that monitor that we have to complete and we went over 100km and we did it!

Each day we tried to complete 100km by Christmas, which we did. A week ago, we went over 250km!! 250km sounds great as a quarter of a million meters. We worked out how many laps we do around the Phoenix building every day. We still do the walking or running when the weather is sunny or raining, clear skies or cloudy grey. We do the laps every day.



Maybe you all could have a go with a daily mile. Most of the day we don't want to go out to do the walk or run because of the weather.

Have a go with the daily mile! It will get you fit and healthy. Do you agree with me?



Mr Ursell marks Numbers Day with yet another amazing t-shirt!





World Strongman Shares advice with LGS students: find out more in our summer issue!



BBC NEWS

Tom Stoltman. Courtesy of: BBC

VIRTUAL HUG

Everyone should receive a VIRTUAL BEAR HUG from time to time to let them know how "SPECIAL" they are. There is a very simple and creative way to do that:

Step 1: Copy and paste the template into the Word or Publisher document.

Step 2: Print the copy

Step 3: Cut the shape out.

Step 4: Colour the back of the bear shape.

Step 5: Use the blank space to write a message or just a name of a person you would like to give a VIRTUAL BEAR HUG to.

Step 6: Fold BEAR's arms

Step 7: Give/send the card to your chosen person.

Have fun!



Share a hug today!