



WELCOME TO
The Roundhill Academy



Lockdown Newsletter 1



A message from The Headteacher

During the first Lockdown, the idea of students being educated remotely had a certain amount of novelty value. 12 months later and 3 weeks into Lockdown 3, I think it is fair to say that for everyone, that novelty value has significantly reduced! The lengths to which families, staff and students are going to, to remain enthusiastic and engaged in the online provision is greatly appreciated though I think we are all looking forward to the point in time when we are able to emerge into whatever the Spring term reality begins to look like. At school level, we are still waiting (increasingly impatiently) for clarity about this.

This week, the planned testing (which has taken a monumental effort to put into place) appears to be being rethought by the DFE. Our testing infrastructure will remain in place but the 'mass testing' vision of a few weeks ago appears to be developing into a more targeted programme of weekly testing for staff and tests for all students (all who have given consent) before the return to onsite provision. Whatever the eventual outcome, please be reassured that as soon as we know anything, we will communicate with the wider school community.

This is the same for the pending decision on examinations this year, the breadth of the examination curriculum for next year and the national expectation for when schools return to normal. In the meantime, at Roundhill we have begun recruiting some new teachers to work at the school. The current year 10s will go into their GCSE year having had two disrupted school years and we are focused on maximising our support of them and keeping class sizes down.

Some of the changes planned for the Spring/Summer term will be delayed until September to allow us all to settle back into the school routine (as soon as we are able) but for now, please continue to work together with us as a community and to communicate with school as much as possible.

Thanks all, Tim Marston





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Bradgate 6th form

The last few weeks have been a really busy time for students in Bradgate Sixth Form! Year 13 students have now completed their UCAS applications and our first Oxbridge applicants have now completed their interviews and assessments. Many students have applied to Russell Group universities and for courses such as Accountancy and Finance, Aerospace Engineering, Astrophysics, Digital TV Production, Drama, Human Physiology, Law, Medicine, Politics and Zoology to name just a few!

Our Year 12 Elephant Group cohort are well underway with their Elephant Access Programme. Students have been given the opportunity to take part in AccessEd's Research-Based Curricula (RBCs) programme. RBCs are short tutorial coursebooks which are based on real research in unique subject areas, each written by a PhD researcher who is an expert in their field. Completing one of these coursebooks is a really rewarding opportunity for students. Students are able to explore different subjects, gain academic 'stretch' experience and build independent research and learning skills.

Year 12 students not enrolled onto the Elephant Access Programme have applied for various widening participation programmes and virtual experiences. A number of students have applied for the 'Pathways to Medicine Programme' which is run by the University of Leicester and The Sutton Trust. This programme looks to inspire and support students to explore a range of careers in medicine. All Pathways students are also offered a work placement, mentoring and networking opportunities.

Year 12 students have also been given the opportunity (through HSBC) to take part in a range of virtual experiences. HSBC have created a series of virtual events which aim to give students confidence on employment prospects and target key employability skills, giving students an advantage when looking for a career.

There is no doubt that Bradgate Sixth Form students are being kept very busy at the moment!

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sarah in Year 12 who has been successful in her application to be part of European Youth Parliament UK. Its mission is to inspire and empower young people to be open-minded, tolerant and active citizens. I look forward to Sarah sharing with you the work that she has been involved with over the coming weeks.

Finally, we have now received over 120 applications for Bradgate Sixth Form for September 2021 which is fantastic! Students who have applied will now be enrolled onto the B6 Growth Programme. This programme has been developed to support students in refining and mastering the skills required for success in their current GCSE studies. This is a really exciting time as students begin their first steps on their future pathways.

Year 11 students can still apply to join Bradgate Sixth Form on our website:

<https://www.bradgatesixthform.com/> or students can email admin@bradgatesixthform.com for further information.

Katie Johnson, Head of Bradgate Sixth Form



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Careers and PD

This term has seen all year groups within KS3 (years 7-9), begin their latest PD topic of Careers, dreams and goals. This term we have looked at what skills are, what the most important skills are for various roles and to employers and how some very famous failures have turned themselves into successes.

Alongside this, Mrs Kyle and Miss Hardy have put together a weekly assembly linked to the PD lesson topic that we have been covering each week. If you have missed any of them and would like to watch them back then please follow these links:

1. Week beginning 11th January 2021 - https://youtu.be/uzB-Hb76_gU
2. Week beginning 18th January 2021 - <https://youtu.be/aSiGnAiuRHM>
3. Week beginning 25th January 2021 - <https://youtu.be/28wUF5GfHvY>



These are available for all year groups to watch.

Unifrog

On a side note, in the coming weeks, we will be using Unifrog to complete some of our PD lessons in the coming weeks so if you don't know your login then please:

1. Google Unifrog
2. Click sign in
3. Click forgotten password
4. Enter your school email address
5. This sends a link to your email and you can reset your password to something you will remember
6. Then try and login again



Year 11

The application deadline is getting very close but there is still time to submit any late applications. If you need any help then please email Mrs Kyle and any support needed will be provided.

On the school website, there is a wealth of resources for you to use. These include:

- <https://www.roundhill.leics.sch.uk/students/personal-development/> - this page of our school website allows you to read up on what your son/daughter will be studying in Personal Development along with how we are promoting British values.
- <https://www.roundhill.leics.sch.uk/students/ceiag-careers/#1598342433626-055f55ff-4d8c> - this resource allows you to search for different jobs and gives you instant access to the qualifications needed, salary within the job and the Local Market Information.

Head of PD and Careers Lead – Laura Kyle. Email – lkyle@roundhill.bepschools.org



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English

GCSE English - In Years 10 and 11 our focus naturally shifts to the exam requirements.

In year 10 students will either be completing their study of A Christmas Carol for English Literature or moving on to work on exploring fiction texts for the GCSE in English Language.

In Year 11 our focus is on providing detailed feedback on the practice exams which students sat before Christmas and opportunities to use this feedback to improve their performance and fill any gaps in their knowledge. One area year 11 have focused on is Descriptive Writing, which is one of the tasks set in English Language Paper 1.

Year 11 Descriptive Writing based on an image

Some examples of students' work based on this image:



The wise man's eyes gleamed with a film of built up tears creating a reflection of people moving busily towards hard solid oak wood, standing over it, looking inside. Shining gold coloured handles, large bouquets of varying coloured flowers, frames with the most intricate and delicate patterns held the most precious memories inside.

Behind him the sky was coated in a thick layer of fog which drifted beyond what he could see branching off and dancing as he sat longingly looking up into the grim, grey, gargantuan sky full of hopes, dreams and promises. His beard was white with age however freshly groomed for this saddening occasion. Topping his head was a matte black hat to match his fully black suit he even held in his hand a fully black cane to bring his outfit together; you could tell he wanted to make an effort. His eyes had droops of wrinkles hanging below them, redness from tears that brimmed ready to fall down his wise, aged face.

The reflection of hard, solid, oak wood you could see in his eyes was the coffin of the woman he loved most in this world.

By Kayan Kotecha

Head gradually sinking into the marsh of his clothing, he gazes off to his left with his ancient pupils that look just as exhausted as he does. His face is like a sculpture, the features carved from clay into a form that would be perfect were it not for human error. However, despite these flaws, he refuses to acknowledge himself. Instead, he continues to gaze through those air-clear glasses that rest upon the hills of his nose - in fact, his eyes appear closer to glass than the actual glass does. Great trenches form the lines beneath his cheeks, either side a battlefield between his emotions and appearance as he desperately struggles to contain his misery. No words escape his sealed lips; no tears escape his eyes, regardless of their coat of white paint flaking off to reveal the sea of red beneath. They simply merge with the landscape, topped by a field of dirty white hair as his gaze persists.

By Aubrey Stapleton



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English cont....

Exhausted and withered, his forehead wrinkled in disgust as he gazed upon the masses of pigeons gathered just outside; they pecked and dug into mounds of decaying food like ravenous creatures. The crevasses in his forehead bore a thousand words when the man didn't even open his tightly shut mouth, his expression said it all and more. Occasionally, he would let his gaze wander further away from the dirtied pavement outside the café window and he would watch the buskers desperately scraping pennies from the floor, wrestling with the intense wind blowing a gale around them. At least he was inside and not exposed to the harsh weather storming the city.

Surrounding him were tables and tables full with groups of excitable friends, chattering and laughing obnoxiously. The man sat alone, his table was empty and a pitying sight to see, much like his eyes that one adorned a hopeful glow that was now shrouded in a blanket of misery. There was no life behind those pools of sorrow. Echoing around him, the overbearing noise of the café only grew louder as he sat on the uncomfortable plastic chair. Sat patiently on the clothed table ahead of him, the man's cup of tea was rippling with the sudden footsteps of customers eager for their breakfast, only causing even more annoyance to bubble up inside of him.

His frosted eyebrows lay permanently furrowed atop his drooping eyelids, in a constant state of bewilderment. He wasn't used to this much noise, or this much happiness. Letting the sounds of teenagers deep in passionate conversations float over his head, the man's eyes flickered shut as his thoughts took over. As the café door swung open and closed with new customers – all irritably cheerful – his pale beard was tangled into unruly knots however he had been swallowed by the distant memories of happiness.

By Kitty Tomlinson

Follow us:

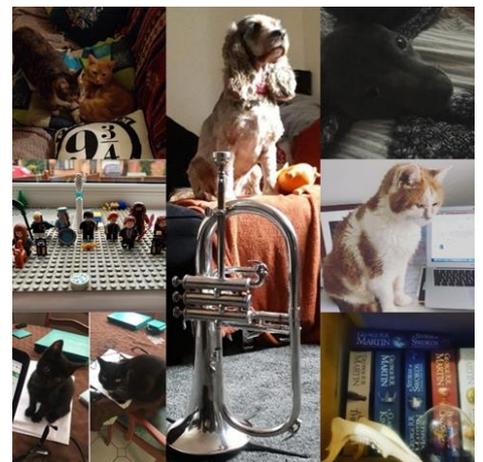
On Instagram: RoundhillEnglish

On Facebook: Roundhill English

On YouTube: Roundhill English

Lockdown Guess Who

How well do you know the English team? Can you guess whose lockdown view each of the images is?



Remember versions of our set texts are available online, although having your own copy is always preferable:

A Christmas Carol full text: [Stormfax A Christmas Carol](#)

A Christmas Carol audiobook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93nrUxxm0HA>

An Inspector Calls: <https://genius.com/J-b-priestley-an-inspector-calls-all-acts-123-fully-annotated-annotated>

An Inspector Calls audiobook: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgkfEc_EWro

Macbeth: <http://shakespeare.mit.edu/macbeth/full.html>



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Humanities

History

This week we are studying:

Year 7 – The Crusades – why did people go on a crusade?

Year 8 – The British Empire – how big was it?!

Year 9 – The rise of Hitler – How did Hitler try to take power of Germany?

Year 10 – Medicine Through Time – Treatments of the 20th & 21st Century

Year 11 – Nazi Germany – The Munich Putsch



Lots of our pupils in History are putting in an amazing level of effort, showing resilience and being as awesome as ever in challenging times!

Our subject superstars are pupils who have really stood out to their teacher, attended every live lesson, submitted high quality evidence of their work and contributed during remote learning.

Miss Thornton's subject superstars:

Mrs Pope's subject superstars:

Miss Nelson's subject superstars:



RE

National Holocaust Day – Wednesday 27th January 2021

On Wednesday 27th January 2021 is Holocaust Memorial Day

The theme this year is 'Be the light in the darkness'. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust are asking every household across the UK to light a candle and put in in your window at 8pm on Wednesday 27th January 2021.

We are asking for students and staff to safely take part in this, if they wish, by lighting a candle, taking a photo, and sending it to Mrs Pope.





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Humanities

Geography

Geography is all around us taking on many different shapes and forms. That's why each week our TV screens are filled with fascinating programmes that cover a vast amount of geography issues and concepts. Below is your weekly guide to some cool geography related viewing. Get the popcorn out and enjoy!

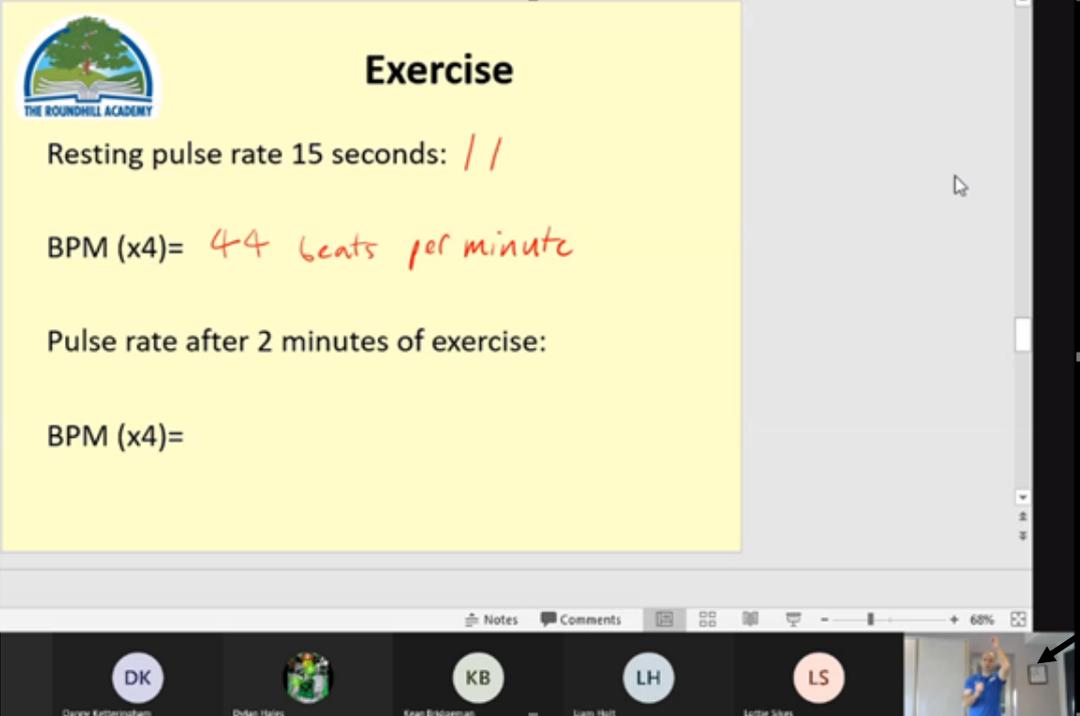
Programme	TV Channel	Date/Time	What's it all about...	Catch Up?
Life of a Mountain: A Year on Helvellyn		Tues 26 th 9-10:30pm	(Post-Watershed) Terry Abraham films a year in the life of Helvellyn in the Lake District, featuring an exhilarating RAF fighter plane flight through its stunning and much-loved landscape.	BBC iPlayer
Secret Safari: Into the Wild		Tues 26 th 8pm-9pm	At Ol Pejeta, Kenya's vast wildlife conservancy, viewers are taken inside the lives of an incredible cast elephants and hippos to lions, hyenas and ostriches	4OD
WinterWatch		Weds 27 th 8pm-9pm	In this episode, Winterwatch looks at winter gatherings. Chris Packham is live in the New Forest, Gillian Burke explores the life-cycle of the eel, and Megan McCubbin is swimming with jellyfish.	BBC iPlayer
Paul Merton in China		Thurs 28 th 7pm-8pm	Broadcaster Paul Merton explores China, one of the new emerging superpowers of the World.	My5
Himalaya with Michael Palin		Sat 30 th 8pm-9pm	Michael Palin sets off on an epic journey through the rugged terrain of the Himalayas.	BBC iPlayer
Countryfile		Sun 31 st 6pm-7pm	Countryside and rural affairs from around the UK.	BBC iPlayer
A perfect planet- David Attenborough Humans		Sun 31 st 8pm-9pm	Humans are changing our planet so rapidly, it's affecting earth's life support systems: our weather, our oceans and the living world.	BBC iPlayer
Incredible Journeys with Simon Reeve		Sun 31 st 8pm-9pm	In this second programme, Simon focuses on some of the dodgiest and most dangerous situations he's found himself in while travelling the globe.	BBC iPlayer



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Science

Mr Lindley's year 10 class got active this week, with students invited to carry out some exercise in order to monitor its effect upon their pulse rates. Mr Lindley led the session by example, carrying out some energetic HIIT training for the students to get involved with. Two minutes of intense exercise were then followed by a period of pulse monitoring in order to conclude upon the physical effects of the exercise. Favourable comparisons were made by students in the chat to Mr Lindley appearing to be as energetic as Usain Bolt and great fun was had by all.



Exercise

Resting pulse rate 15 seconds: //

BPM (x4)= 44 beats per minute

Pulse rate after 2 minutes of exercise:

BPM (x4)=

Notes: Notes Comments

DK Dylan Hayes KB Liam Hill LS

Eat your heart
out Joe
Wicks!!!!!!!!!!!!

Science reading for this week: 'Camels have been dying after mistaking plastic for food'

<https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/camel-eating-plastic-trash-waste-deadly-masses>

This weeks science article is linked to how our plastic waste is killing camels as they are eating large amounts of it as they are mistaking it for their food.





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Science – STEM Challenge

If you fancy a challenge this week, why don't you try this. Send Mr Lindley pictures of you completing the challenge – jlindley@roundhill.bepschools.org

CHALLENGE

ENTERING THE FOURTH DIMENSION

DANIELA HAS DEVELOPED SOFTWARE THAT EMPOWERS GAME DESIGNERS TO CREATE IN THE MOST INTUITIVE WAY BY SKETCHING IN 3D USING VR.

Most 3D objects used in game design are made up of usually **regular polygons**.

Regular polygons are 2D shapes where every edge is the same length and every angle is the same size (such as a square or equilateral triangle).

Exploring platonic solids

Platonic solids are a special type of **polyhedron** (3D shape) with special properties.

- There are only five solids that have both these properties:
- Describe the platonic solids.
 - What do you think the special properties are?



Tetrahedron



Hexahedron



Octahedron



Dodecahedron



Icosahedron

- MATERIALS**
- Straight biodegradable straws
 - Pipe cleaners
 - Bubble mixture (or soap)
 - Water
 - Bucket

TIME TO MAKE

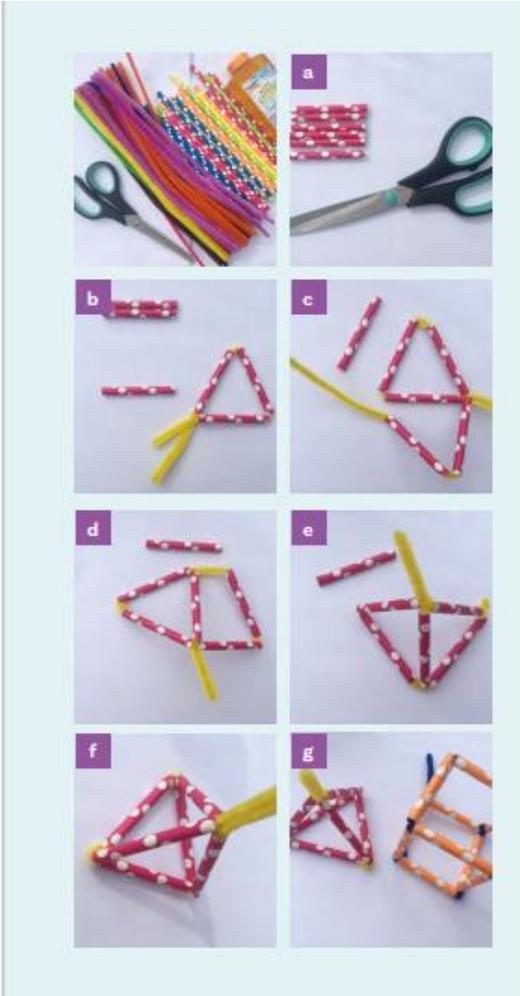
Tetrahedron

1. Cut your straws so you have six equal pieces.
2. Thread your pipe cleaner through one end and bend one end to secure it in place.
3. Add two more pieces of straw and twist the pipe cleaner to secure it in place.
4. Add more pipe cleaner by twisting more on to one of the loose ends.
5. Add two more straw pieces and bend it back to one of the joints.
6. Secure the loose end of the pipe cleaner in place by threading it through the straw that will form the adjacent edge.
7. Attach the final straw piece so the two vertices (corners) meet it.
8. Extend the pipe cleaner to form a handle.



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Science – STEM Challenge continued...



Making platonic solids

How many pieces of straw would you need for a hexahedron (cube)?

How many pieces of straw would you need for a dodecahedron (the table on the next page might help you)?

Have a go at making a hexahedron and octahedron using straws and pipe cleaner. Write a set of instructions for someone else to follow so they can make their own.

Stretch and challenge

Challenge yourself to make a **dodecahedron**. What about an **icosahedron**?

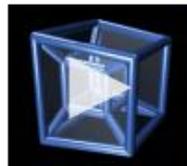
Into the fourth dimension

What is the fourth dimension and does it exist? The **fourth dimension** is related to the other three **dimensions** by imagining another direction through space; just as the dimension of depth can be added to a square to create a cube, the **fourth dimension** can be added to a cube to create a tesseract.

- Add water and bubble mixture to a bucket or large bowl.
- Dip your tetrahedron into the bubble mixture.
- Dip your hexahedron into the bubble mixture.

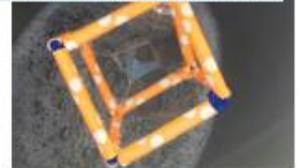
What do you notice?

Try this with the other straw and pipe cleaner platonic solids you have made.



Check out this moving animation of a tesseract projected in two dimensions: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four-dimensional_space#/media/File:8-cell-simple.gif

Platonic solids dipped in bubbles



Two-dimensional representations of four-dimensional shapes



A four-dimensional tetrahedron is known as a **5-cell**.

A four-dimensional cube is known as a **tesseract**.



This Week in Science... Practical by Post!

“Practical science shows students at first-hand how scientists and technicians work. It engages students to follow science further, on academic or technical routes. It gives them practical skills and attitudes that will be valuable in their future careers”.

Year 10 and 11 pupils at Roundhill aren't going to be missing out on practical science during lockdown!

This week I have been putting together something special: arriving in some teaching groups' letterboxes over the next few weeks will be a complete kit to carry out an experiment to monitor the growth of seedlings in different conditions.

It's really important for our pupils to be involved in real, hands-on science so I've been really excited to be working on this. Of course, some experiments can still only be done safely in the lab so I have also been recording a few video demonstrations of key practical activities. Keep an eye out for these in your live lessons!

Hopefully I will be writing again soon to show you the results of our pupils' endeavours with their seedlings!

Miss E. Woolman, Science technician



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Modern foreign languages

Duolingo language lockdown challenge

“The popularity of language-learning apps has boomed around the world during the coronavirus lockdowns.”
(BBC)

Why not join in and have a go at learning a new language?

On Duolingo you can learn any of the following languages for free: French, Spanish, German, Japanese, Italian, Korean, Chinese, Russian, Hindi, Arabic, Portuguese, Turkish, Dutch, Latin, Swedish, Irish, Greek, Polish, Norwegian, Hebrew, Vietnamese, Hawaiian, Danish, Indonesian, Gaelic, Welsh, Romanian, Czech, Finnish, Swahili, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Esperanto and even Klingon!

You can go to www.duolingo.com or download the app in the Apple and Google app stores.

Ms Doherty and Mr Jones are both currently learning new languages on Duolingo. Ms Doherty is learning Danish and has a 256 day streak. Ms Doherty’s favourite sounding Danish words so far are ‘undskyld’ and ‘hjem.’ Mr Jones is learning Portuguese and has a 288 day streak. His favourite sounding Portuguese word so far is ‘obrigado’.

Let your MFL teacher know which language you are learning, your favourite words and how long a streak you manage to keep!



UK leading the way in use of language-learning apps

By Kitti Palmai and Will Smale
Business reporters

11 January 2021 | Business



A growing number of us are using apps to learn a new language



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Food technology

This week we have been focusing on getting more vegetables in your diet. This recipe does just that.

Challenge yourself to make these mini carrot cakes and send your pictures into Ms Sharpe at gsharpe@roundhill.bepschools.org

Mini carrot
cakes

Ingredients

- 75g margarine
- 125g carrots
- 30g sultanas
- 100g sugar
- 100g flour
- 5g cinnamon
- 5g baking powder
- 1 large egg



Next week there will be another challenge for you – **GET YOUR BAKE ON ROUNDHILL!**



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The Library

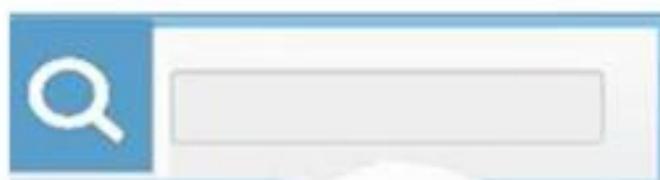
Do you need a new book to read over lockdown?
Our school library is now
available to you online so that you can search
and reserve books that will be delivered to you!



click on LOGIN and enter the following

User name: your school email address

Password: roundhill



Search for your book

