

Update Letter 05-03-2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

We have almost made it ! As we come to the last few days of home-schooling and remote-learning, I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone for all the wonderful work, support and care since Lockdown started in January. Students, families and staff have all worked hard and have put in an enormous amount of effort to keep our children safe, happy and learning.

Full details of our arrangements for the phased return of all students is in the attached 'School Plan' document and there is a Frequently Asked Questions Quick Guide to some key things to note as students return to school. By Wednesday next week we will have all students back on site and, although there are several Covid-19-related restrictions still in place, we are all excited and delighted to welcome students back for face-to-face teaching. We have all learned a whole range of new skills and technology has enabled us to still keep in touch and cover most of our curriculum.

We have had some amazing work and the examples in this update letter are just a small snapshot of what students have completed.

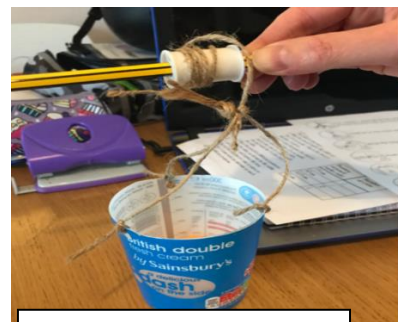
In **Science**, Nicole in Year 5 completed an amazing time-lapse study of growing a plant. The videos are superb – Nicole definitely has the potential to be a TV Science presenter !



Nicole had some inspiration from the National Plant Academy and has also completed many other brilliant Science experiments during Lockdown – an outstanding achievement! Mrs Donnellan and the Science Team have been suitably impressed!



Alex



Oscar

More from Science

The Science department appreciates all of the hard work and effort that students (with lots of support from home!) have put into the home-learning tasks and zoom sessions. The work we have received has often put a smile on our faces as we have sent examples to one another, as proud teachers. These pictures are just a snapshot of what fantastic Scientists many of you have been (photo or no photo!).

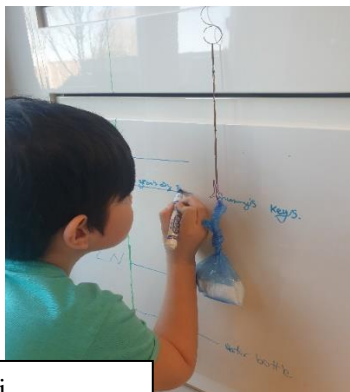
Key stage 2 have enjoyed learning about properties and changes of materials and forces and we have been really pleased to see how innovative you have been, and how well you have followed remote instructions! We have admired your homemade force- meters, 'water cycles in a bag', helicopter spinners, random science-based photos, as well as some fantastic mind-maps, experiment write-ups and graphs too.

Year 7 have covered the periodic table creating some fantastic Kahoot quizzes, PowerPoint presentations and homemade video documentaries to show what you have learnt. Year 8 have studied adaptation and inheritance and we have received some impressive super predators, debates on the work of Rosalind Franklin or arguments for and against selective breeding.

The department also ran an optional task to recognise the International Women and Girls in Science Day. We received lots of creative tasks from boys and girls to recognise the likes of Mary Anning, Mae C Jemison and Elizabeth Blackwell, to name a few. Judging will take place on these once we return to school.



Kai



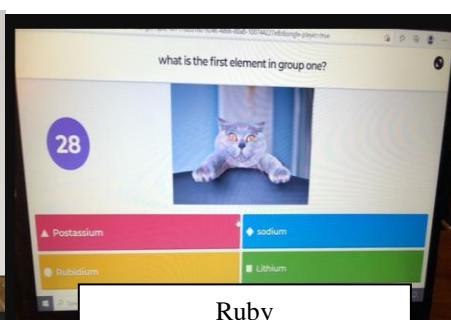
Lana



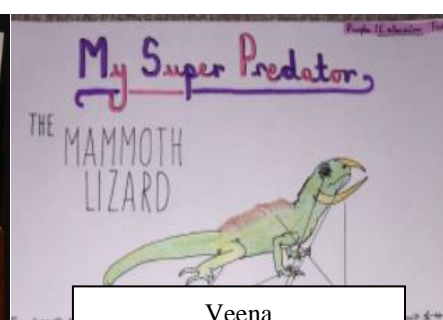
Mason



Casey



Ruby

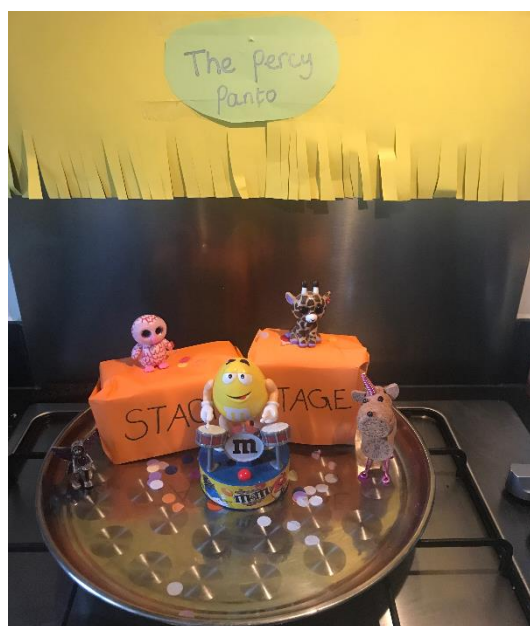


Veena



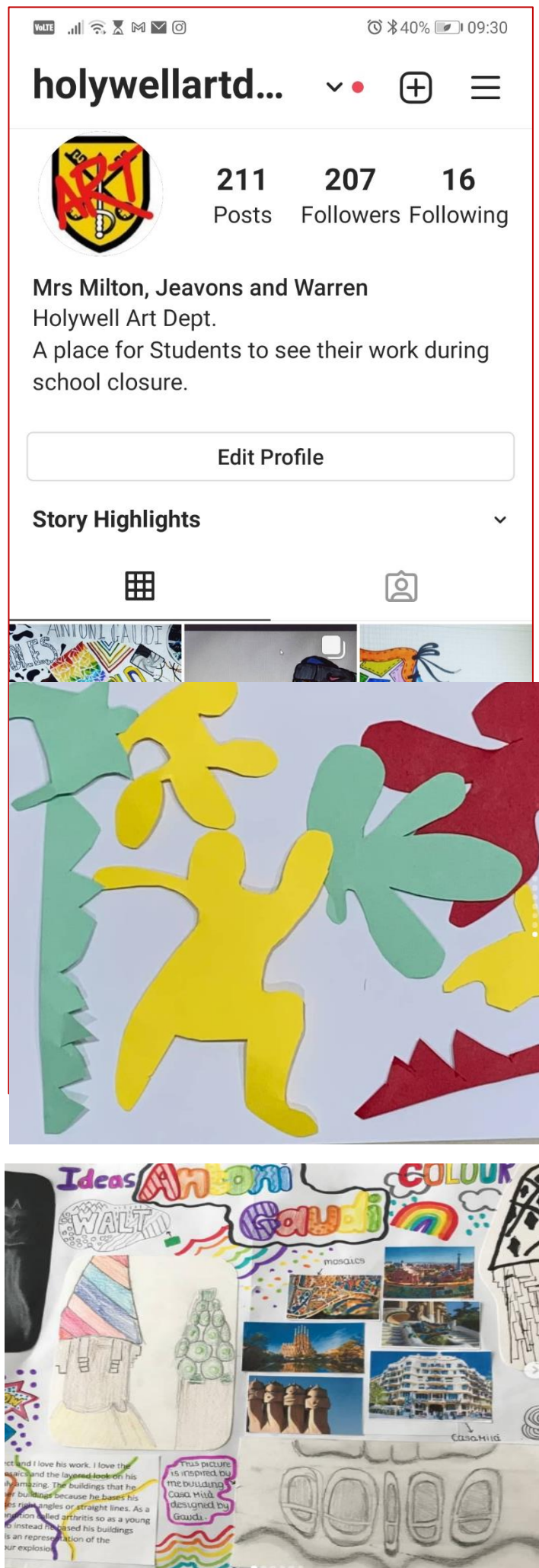
← In **Maths** there have been regular weekly challenges and 'Blooket' a new online Maths Game has been incredibly popular!

In **Drama**, students have been doing set designs – here are some from Amalia, Luke, Rebecca, Roxy and Skyla:



In **French**, as well as all the online learning, students have been watching and listening to Mr Johnson's brilliant French songs. This was the message from one family: "thanks to Mr Johnson for his wonderful videos on Youtube! Both children in the house really enjoyed it, we used them as a gentle "wake-up call" on weekdays to get the boys to 'rise and shine' - waking them up is so easy now as they run down stairs and start singing along with Monsieur Johnson."

A drawing of a red, spotted monster with one large eye and two small fangs. The monster has a red body with yellow spots and yellow limbs with red spots. It has a single large eye and two small fangs. The drawing is on a white background.



Some students have also taken the opportunity to further develop skills in areas in which they are passionate. One such example is Fahim. Fahim loves coding and has been doing Scratch programming since 2019. He heard about the Momocuri project from promo emails by Inspiring Music, Central of Bedfordshire Council just before the half-term. There were 200 funded places offered by Inspiring Music and Fahim took on the challenge. This was the first time he had learnt about Microsoft MakeCode. Fahim won 'Best Games Design' in the Moncuri Project Challenge for his video game: Akio's Quest. Read about it here and give it a go!

Akio's Quest

By Trevorcat11

Prologue

Long ago, there was a haunted territory - the Akihabara Plain. It was a dangerous terrain like no other.

On the plain therein lay the tombs of forgotten fighters who fought their lives against a vile and vicious entity. Strange things happen in and around the Akihabara plain. Winter barren trees remain throughout the year despite changes in seasons.

Legend says that whoever crosses this place shall never come out alive...

Akio - a great ninja of his time - was trusted by the Old Sage to collect 20 Ruby Relics from the

deadly land.



Videogame link:

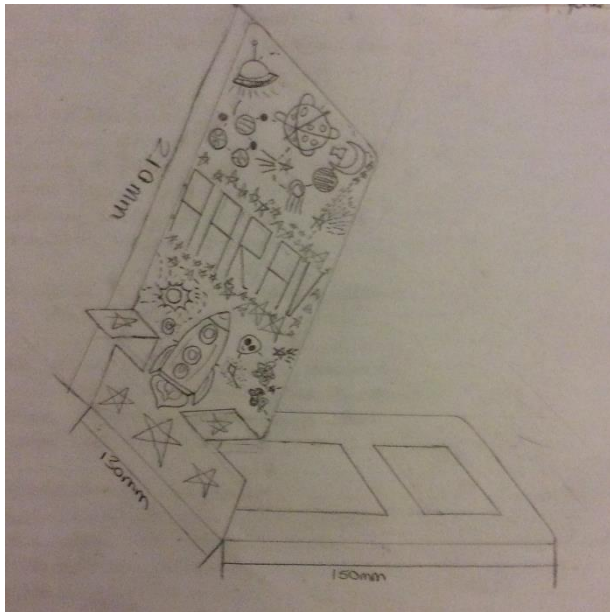
https://makecode.com/_9yJT2x6W1WiX

The moderators of the Momocuri project said that 'the sprite design was very unique'. They liked the fact that Fahim had re-cycled the preset and had used some 'Killer code'. They also said that his use of a status bar above the sprite demonstrated brilliant design skills.



We can't wait to see what he comes up with next!

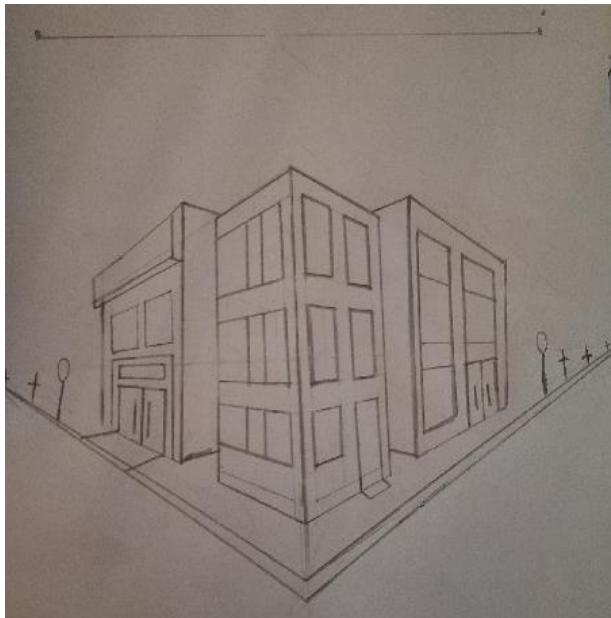
In DT students have been designing and making:



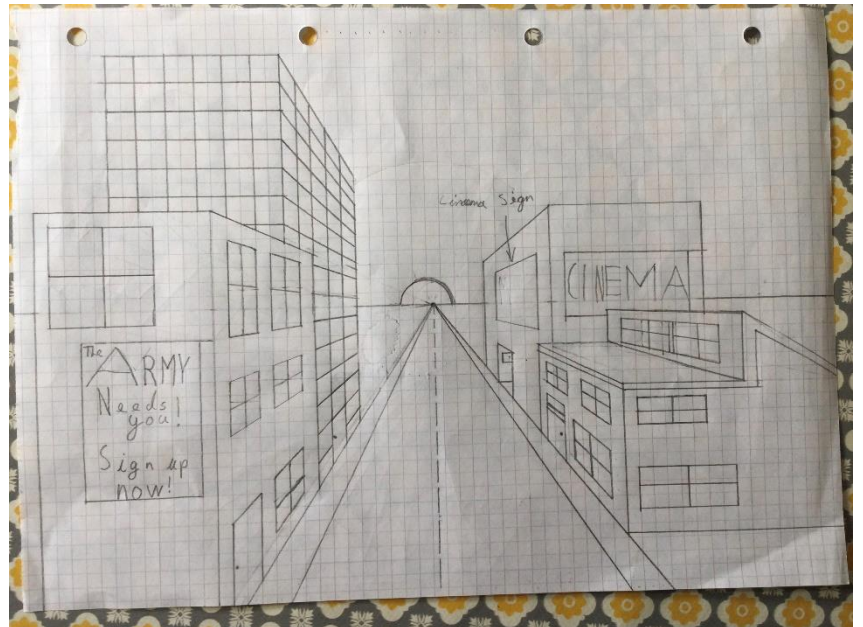
Aaarav



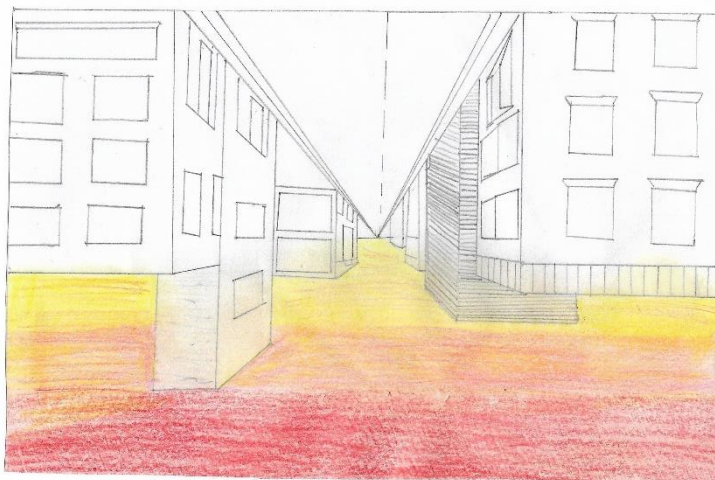
Callum



Skyla



Jake



Grace

The **History** department has been busy this term with Year 5 learning about the Ancient Greeks culminating in them making some super connections between causes for the decline of the Empire. Year 6 have immersed themselves into the world of the vicious Vikings, creating some super posters on the Viking army. Year 7 were refining their source work skills by learning about King John and the Magna Carta and are now launching themselves into the Tudor age while Year 8 are embarking on a rather gruesome journey into the Transatlantic slave trade.



In **RE** lessons Year 5 have been looking at the actions and teachings of Jesus to help them to understand why Christians believe he was the son of God while Year 6 have been learning about Sikhism, the 5K's and gurdwaras. In Year 7 students have been thinking about what they would want heaven to look like and comparing this with Biblical descriptions as well as looking at 'evidence' for differing beliefs about what happens when we die. They are moving on to learn about Christian beliefs about salvation. Year 8 have been delving into the Hindu faith and learning about their beliefs in reincarnation and considering what value the caste system has in the modern world. They are now learning about Hindu rites of passage and comparing these with those undertaken in the Christian faith.



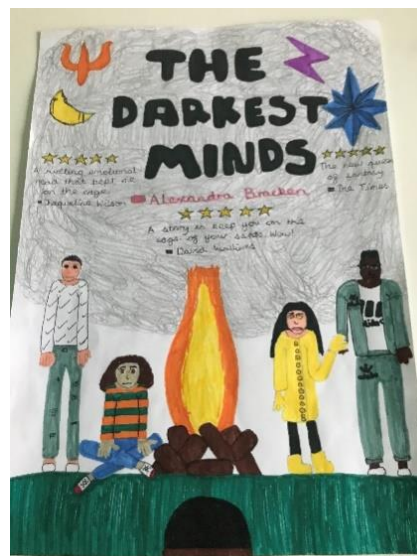
World Book Day!

Not even a global pandemic could dampen Holywell's enthusiasm for books, reading and character costumes!





Other challenges included reading in unusual places:



... and a book cover design challenge ----->:

Mr Brown organised some great events including a live Zoom lesson for all year groups hosted by our English staff.

English teachers talked about their favourite books ... which ones were you inspired to read??

- Mr Brown: His Dark Materials by Phillip Pullman
- Mr Ulph: The Lord of the Rings by JRR Tolkien
- Mr Simpson: Wonder by RJ Palacio; The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse by Charles Macksey; The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman.
- Miss Norman: Matilda by Roald Dahl
- Mrs Bassett: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe
- Mr Mack: The Hobbit
- Mrs Smullen: Middlemarch
- Mrs Warner: The Boy at the Back of the Class

Students have been really creative in English. Here is Aimee's wonderful and emotional poem:

The Table.

A girl filled with happiness and joy,
Put her book on the table,
Put flowers in glass vase there.
She put her hopes and dreams on the table.
She put there the love she felt for her family.
Sounds of pages of a book turning.
The softness of a kind dogs fur,
On the table the girl put
Things that happened in her mind.
What she wanted to do in life,
She put that there.
Those she loved, those she didn't love,
The girl put them on the table too.
Three times three make nine:
The girl put nine on the table.
She was next to the window next to the sky;
She reached out and placed on the table happiness.
So many days she had wanted to read,
She put on the table the book world she would enter,
She placed there her adventure and excitement;
Her happiness and sadness she placed there.



In Year 5, the Pied Piper of Hamlyn was re-told from the perspective of one of the rats – here's a snippet of Alfie's work:



THE RAT'S PERSPECTIVE

It all started in 1284. I killed cats, fought dogs and bit babies. The people got fed up. Yesterday afternoon, I was in a cheese shop. The villagers went to the mayor, annoyed, and started to protest (they even threw mud at the windows of the mayor's palace). The mayor's crew had no plans. Then suddenly the crowd split in two because a weird man dressed in a

long coat that was half yellow, half red knocked on the door of the mayor's palace. The mayor said "come in" so the strange man came into the mayor's palace. I vaguely heard the mayor saying something about paying the strange man 50,000 guilders for clearing all of my population from the town and drowning us all.

The music started moments later from his pipe. All the other rats followed the noise but I must have my brain wired differently because I didn't run after the noise as all the other rats scurried away. There was a very loud noise because the rats all scrambled off out of the cheesery, out of the houses, out of the bakery and out of the meatery.

One challenge for Year 7 in English was The Great Balloon Debate. Students had to write a persuasive text about who they thought should be allowed to stay in the balloon. Eloise chose Captain Sir Tom Moore:



Captain Sir Tom Moore

Why was Captain Sir Tom Moore one of the most important people in Britain in 2020? Well, where do I start? As I'm sure everyone is aware there are millions of good reasons. During some of Britain's darkest times, he shone an uplifting light on a simply awful situation, gave everybody the glimpse of hope that people were desperately in need of, and on top of this he raised an amazing £32,000,000 for the incredible NHS. Don't you think this is amazing? The NHS are still gratefully using the money he kindly donated and people across the nation are inspired by his ground-breaking achievements.

Sir Captain Tom was a 99-year-old War Veteran who decided to raise money for the NHS, since they were [and still are] under a lot of stress because of Coronavirus. He initially aimed to raise £1000 by doing 100 laps of his 25-metre garden before his 100th birthday. This £1000 target was sensationally smashed within just 24 hours, and then, when he completed his challenge early, he didn't give up but raised his target further to 200 laps!

His perseverance and positivity inspired millions of people. During his challenge the total money kept increasing, people not only in England, but across the globe donated, and soon Captain Tom became a household name, not just in his hometown of Marston Moretaine, but across the UK. Following this, he became the oldest person to have a No.1 single when he duetted with Michael Ball and was also made an Honorary Colonel. When he eventually turned 100 on the 30th of April he received over 100,000 birthday cards and a flypast by RAF war planes! To top it all, Captain Tom Moore was rewarded with a knighthood from the Queen for his fantastic fundraising efforts.

He also proved to the nation that you should never doubt that you are good enough; he had to wait until he was 99 until he became famous for inspiring others!


To conclude, I truly believe that Captain Sir Tom Moore was not one of the most important people of 2020, but the most important person. He will without a doubt be missed by everyone, not only in this country but everywhere all over the world.


... and that's just a sample of the wonderful work we've received from students during lockdown. The Critical Worker students in school have completed just as much work and have been a joy to have on site.

We look forward to everyone being back in school next week and, by Wednesday next week when all the testing is done, we should be able to start to get back to a more normal 'new normal'.


Our Value of the Month is COMPASSION. Compassion is more than empathy and more than being aware of other people's feelings. It is about putting yourself in someone else's shoes, experiencing what they experience and then doing something to help. As students return, we would ask that everyone tries to be compassionate and tries to help and support each other. We must take inspiration from Sir Captain Tom Moore, remember to smile, and remember that 'TOMORROW WILL BE A GOOD DAY'.


Take care and stay safe
Mr Simpson

**HOLYWELL SCHOOL**
CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL CRANFIELD



Value of the Month
March 2021: Compassion





"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." — 1 John 3:18

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." — 1 Peter 4:10.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JANE HILLIARD

Compassion is about putting yourself in someone else's shoes, experiencing what they experience and then doing something to help.

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