

Hello Poppy Class



I hope you have all had a lovely Easter with your families. Did the Easter bunny bring you some Easter eggs? I hope you haven't eaten too much chocolate and you shared some with your grown-ups 😊

Have you enjoyed the sunshine? It is a beautiful time of year. How many different flowers have you spotted growing? Can you see the buds and leaves appearing on trees? Have you heard the noisy birds singing?

We have received a letter from Paddington Bear! He must have posted it before self-isolating. The postcard is from Madagascar, a large island off the south-east coast of Africa. Paddington has told us about children from Madagascar, their diet and games they play. It sounds like a beautiful island! I have attached a copy of the postcard and letter, so your grown-ups can read them to you. Perhaps you could research a little more about food grown in Madagascar. You could draw a picture of your favourite food and help to prepare a healthy meal.

I am missing you all so very much, but I am very proud of how well you have adjusted to the current situation. It is important that we stay at home, with our families, and stay healthy. We will see each other and our friends again soon. Remember, do a little work, something active and something that makes you smile each day 😊

Love From
Mrs Fletcher xxx





Hello

If you stand with your nose and paws so they face south, turn a little to the left and travel 5,700 miles, to the other side of Africa, you'll find the island of Madagascar. Most of the vanilla used in ice-cream comes from orchid flowers grown in Madagascar. They also grow a lot of rice which children eat for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Madagascar is twice as big as the United Kingdom but it gets very strong winds and can go for weeks without rain. This makes it hard for families to get enough food so Mr Relf has been telling me how Unicef teaches children and their families what to eat and grow.

There's a lot to learn about Madagascar. I hope you enjoy it.

With love from
Paddington

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FANORONA

> Fanorona is a Madagascan board game for two players. The aim is to capture as many of the other player's pieces as possible.



Legend has it that hundreds of years ago, a prince could not stop playing the game – so much so that he missed the chance to be king, leaving his younger brother to claim the throne.

I enjoy playing board games with the Browns. A game of Monopoly can take us weeks to finish.



THE LEMUR

> Lemurs live only in Madagascar. They communicate using smells, and the males have 'stink wars' to compete over females.



Lemurs live in trees. They sleep during the day and come out at night to eat and play. Dwarf lemurs sleep for the winter months.



"Mrs Bird thinks that Jonathan and Judy's football kit could compete quite well in a stink war."

KOBA

> Koba is a traditional dessert from Madagascar. It's a delicious mix of bananas, rice flour, vanilla, brown sugar and peanuts, all wrapped up in a green banana leaf.



Madagascar grows most of the world's vanilla. Vanilla comes from the pods of an orchid plant.



I'd like to try this dessert. It sounds like it would go very well with marmalade.



BIG ISLAND

> Madagascar is big. It's the fourth-largest island on Earth. It's more than twice the size of the UK, but with fewer than half the number of people.



Madagascar is in the Indian Ocean, 250 miles off the east coast of Africa. Many animals and plants here are not found anywhere else in the world.



There are a lot of rare animals in Madagascar, but not a single bear.



"The first time we went to the nutrition centre, Rova was underweight, very small, but now her health has improved, she is still small but she doesn't get as sick anymore. She is more talkative – she wants to play with her friends all the time. Before, she was quiet."

Rova and her mum Lova



Nearly half of all children in Madagascar don't get enough of the right kind of foods to eat. Unicef helps to teach people about all the different colours of food that children need to be healthy. It's not just orange food – it's a whole rainbow!

Rova loves eating everything now. She is happy and healthy, and soon she will go to school. Her mother says, **"I hope that when Rova grows up she will have her own house. That she will stay healthy."**



What fruit or vegetables do you like eating? Can you draw it in your travel journal and make a dish for your whole family to enjoy that uses it.