



Great Heath Academy and Nursery



Summary of the Year 2020

Key Events by Month

January

As in previous years we welcomed the pantomime into school. Lots of children dressed up and there was plenty of audience participation from pupils and staff. We said goodbye to Mrs Slack and welcomed Mrs Kermanshahi.

February



We looked at keeping safe online for Safer Internet Day. Our PTA organised an extremely successful Disco. We were all exhausted after the dancing. We said goodbye to Mr Danes and welcomed Mrs Hobbs, Mrs Walston and Mrs Turton to the team.



March



We celebrated World Book Day dressing up as a variety of book characters. Parents joined us to share stories and classes buddied up to share stories with each other. This was perhaps the last normal thing we did as the country then entered lockdown. We closed our doors on Friday 20th March to all except children of key workers and sent home a work pack to keep you all busy while we set up our online learning, unaware we would not all be back together until September.

April



We kept the school open for the Easter holiday for children of keyworkers. The staff collaborated virtually to create a video to send out to you all with messages and we made it into the Bury Free Press. The summer term started again, virtually, and parents became teachers and teachers learnt how to teach from a distance. It was a very strange time but everyone rose to the challenge. We experienced the sad loss of Mrs Hough.

May



Your emails with all the amazing work you were doing kept us all smiling and we settled into our new routine with work and feedback being emailed backwards and forwards. We should have been doing the Year 6 SATs this month – Mrs Cole and Miss Oakley set a fun SATs challenge instead, with questions about Great Heath. We began planning to reopen the school to the selected year groups.

June

Social distancing lines were sprayed onto the floor; furniture was stored away to allow for desks to be spaced out and gallons of hand sanitiser arrived as we prepared to welcome back Year 6, Year 1, Year R and Year N into their newly formed bubbles. Miss Walshe left us to go on maternity leave, giving birth to a gorgeous baby boy.



July

Our new bubbles settled well into their new groups, rooms and with new adults. Teachers looked for new ways of learning that remained safe yet still fun. It was wonderful to greet everyone each morning as they came to school smiling. We said goodbye to an amazing bunch of Year 6 pupils before pupils in Y 3, 4 and 5 returned to say goodbye. The highlight of the Year 6 goodbye had to be the drive past in the car park! Our virtual Y6 leavers' assembly had us all in tears. We said goodbye to Mrs Turton.



August

While you were all at home remaining safe the school was being prepared for a full return of pupils. Excess furniture was put in our new container and desks were organised into rows. Hand sanitiser stations appeared at all doorways and we were ready.

September

As we all got used to remembering the new routes into and out of the school the children returned with smiles on their faces. They settled into their new classes really quickly and we focused on readjusting to being back together in school. We welcomed Miss Fordham to our teaching team. The Red Arrows wowed us as they flew over the school.



October

We spent time learning how to look after our mental health, which had become more important than previously, and observed World Mental Health day by dressing in yellow. We decorated our doors to celebrate Black History Month.



November

We raised money for Children in Need and had a day where we could wear whatever we wanted to make us happy. Mrs Mitchinson laid the wreath for Remembrance Day at the war memorial and we observed this in school with a 2 minutes' silence.



December



You donated kindly to our Christmas decoration appeal and the stage looked amazing as we turned it into a Winter Wonderland. Classroom doors were decorated to show how different countries observe Christmas and we held a Christmas book corner competition. Reception recorded their Wiggly Nativity and the whole school watched it in their classrooms on the whiteboards. We had a delicious Christmas dinner wearing our Christmas jumpers. We ended the year with our attendance and behaviour awards followed by the world premiere of the staff performing 'I wish it could be Christmas everyday' in their very own music video.

What next for 2021



Attendance

As you know we are aiming for an overall attendance figure of at least 97%. Despite the current pandemic our attendance has remained high and we are very proud of everyone that has come to school throughout. Please keep this up. We decided to still award our 100% attendance certificates making allowances for anyone who had to self isolate. Please remember we are always here to help so if there is an issue with attendance please speak to us.

Academic Performance

As you may know our performance as a school is measured in the main by how well our children do in tests and assessments. This is done in two ways – how many achieve the level nationally expected of them for their age and how many make nationally expected progress from where they start. You may also know that the children are assessed and the data sent to the Department for Education, Ofsted and the Local Authority at the end of reception, Year 1 (for phonics) and Years 2 and 6 for reading, writing and maths. This year due to the Pandemic there were no statutory assessments but most of these will be taking place in 2021. Teachers have worked tirelessly this term to address any gaps in learning that happened as a result of the lockdown and we thank you for your support in this.

We have identified a need to refocus on our reading and we are looking at ways of ensuring that all the amazing things we have done previously for reading are in place. This will include looking into a Covid-safe way of collecting reads on the Red Ted and Read to Succeed scheme.

You still have access to Education City, Times Tables Rockstars and Lexia at home. Please do make use of these as anything you do will support your child/ren.

2020 will definitely be a year we won't forget. We know that many of you have been personally affected by Covid-19 but we thank you all for supporting us through this difficult period. This newsletter ends with a selection of photos of the Christmas doors and book corners to show you the fun the children have had at the end of a strange year (more photos are on the website). We hope you have a lovely Christmas and we will see you in 2021.

Mrs N Brown
Principal

✓ **Great Fun...**
✓ **Great Confidence...**
✓ **Great Future...**
✓ **Great Health!**

**Great
Hopes
Achieved**

Christmas Doors



Christmas Book Corners

