

# END OF YEAR UPDATE

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## SANDY'S END OF YEAR MESSAGE

Another academic year comes to a close. A year like no other I have experienced in all my years of teaching. Covid 19 called for us as a school to adapt our curriculum and classes in so many ways, which we have tried to do to the very best of our ability. The messages we have received from parents have been so complimentary and supportive and for those comments, I thank you all.

Sadly, this time of year also means we have to bid 'au revoir' to those who will be leaving us and moving onto pastures new:

Abdul Raheem

Albert

Alex F

Alfie F

Devante

Geraldine

J.J.

Luke

Michelle

Olivia

Rengin  
Sydney  
Vinny  
Younes

Naz is also leaving us to move back to her native Spain to be closer to family. During her time with us, she has proved to be a dedicated, caring and creative teacher. She will be greatly missed by pupils and colleagues alike.

I stress 'au revoir' and not farewell, as we are hoping you will all keep in touch to let us know how you are getting on.

We wish every single one of you all the very best for the future. You each depart having grown so much from when you joined us.

My final piece of advice for our leavers - continue to be the kind and caring individuals you all are; listen to your new teachers when they tell you what to do or learn, but more importantly think about it and ask yourself why did they tell us or teach us that? Always

be inquisitive and never give up on your desire to learn something new - whatever that may be.

*Sandy*

## ACTIVITIES / LINKS THAT MIGHT BE HELPFUL



## WHAT A YEAR 2019/20 WAS!

In spite of everything, this academic year was still full of events, achievements and celebration. We must not forget our third Outstanding rating from Ofsted was awarded to us this year!

At the start of the school year in **September** we held our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning Support Fundraiser, albeit with the usual Link twist. Parents and friends were invited to our afternoon tea which our pupils

hosted, treating our guests to an afternoon of delicious sandwiches and cakes and entertainment. Many of our new parents mentioned how surprised they were at the confidence their children had gained already and how well they had settled in.



**October** saw us collecting produce for Sutton Nightwatch as part of our Harvest Festival. Once their new premises were officially opened in Woodcote Road, Kevin delivered all our donations which were gratefully received.

Our regular class visits to the Digi Café started in **November**, where Simon Adams and

members of the OHCAT Digital Team offered lots of IT opportunities for all. From playing computer games to making their own films, our pupils loved it.



**December** wouldn't be the same without our usual Christmas festivities, including a visit from that man in red, who gave all the children a present and a 'Ho Ho, Ho!'



Sandy very kindly stepped in as his 'helper' for the day, making sure she did not miss a second of the excitement.



As always we started the New Year and the Spring Term in **January** with revived vigour and every child's learning journey continued along the path to achievement and progress.



Corona Virus struck in **March**, bringing it with it, the commencement of lockdown around the world. One of the things we introduced almost immediately was our Daily Update, keeping everyone connected and informed during this period. In total we sent out 54 issues!

In **February** preparatory work started in our vegetable patch and flower borders with pupils from all classes keen to take an interest and help Olha to clear the beds for fresh planting - the results of which we are seeing now.

Thankfully, before lockdown we managed to support Sport Relief and the whole school enjoyed joining in the activities set by Sami and Emma.



With lower numbers of pupils attending at school during **April** and a donation of Easter Eggs sitting in the school office, we made the decision to donate them to the doctors and nurses working tirelessly in our local hospitals. Sue R delivered them to Bob Watson at the local collection point.

The old adage 'Cast ne'er a clout 'til **May** is out' proved to be totally the wrong advice as we were hit by a heatwave. Sandy listened to pupils' requests and gave the green light to purchase a huge paddling pool, which has already proved to be a wonderful investment, providing fun and laughter for all as they cooled down during water play.



Officially the first month of Summer and **June** continued to bring nice weather. Sadly our planned residential trip for our older pupils could no longer go ahead. It was nice to slowly

welcome back more and more pupils into our class bubbles.

Our Leavers' Assembly in **July**, although unique in that it took place via Zoom, was as always, very poignant. Many of the pupils who are moving onto their secondary schools have been with us for many years and as their memories and happy times were shared, there was many a tear shed - some through laughter too we would add!

We were thrilled when the parents of our leavers delivered a huge bamboo plant for our sensory garden, which will provide a lasting reminder of our 2019/20 leavers as well as providing beauty and lots of tactile opportunities for all future pupils.

## AND FINALLY .....

A huge thank you to everyone for your kind words, cards and gifts. It is very much appreciated by us all.

