

2020-2021

A year like no other, ever!



This school year has presented a unique set of challenges and we have risen to each one. From reopening, to Tier 4, to lockdown and then return again – there has never been another year like it. Whether working from home or in school, our focus at all times has been **Learning, achieving and succeeding together**. Thank you for being with us at every step. Your support and positivity has made such a difference.

Let's take a whistle stop tour of some of the key moments this year...

September

September began with the full reopening of school. So much planning and preparation took place to ensure everyone was kept safe. The delight in having a full school was one we'll always remember, and our attendance has gone from strength to strength ever since!



October

Teachers were implementing our autumn transition package to help the children catch up on their lost learning. Harvest was another emotional moment, even without being able to come together in assembly, we still came together to help those less fortunate. And to finish the half term, Year Six who didn't get the usual residential experience, had an onsite adventure day with experiences they will always remember!



November

November started with Parliament Week and soon led into Remembrance. Some of our youngest children took a wreath to share at the Cenotaph and were praised for the respectful example they set. Meanwhile, our sports coach - Miss McAlinden - ran her virtual marathon after the London event was postponed again.



December

We were all determined that Christmas would be a time to remember so staff created an entire Advent Calendar of activities to enjoy at home and school; including the Christmas Factor and the school decorated door competition. Then to finish the term, the PTFA (with help from Reverend Karl at St Marks) bought and shared gifts with all the children.



January

Another lock down hit and we had 24 hours to reinvent school so it could happen at home – Class Dojo went live and the BBC and Zentec came to visit to help us with extra learning devices. Children, parents and staff all rose to the challenge and showed great resilience and commitment in extraordinary circumstances.



February

Routines were established in home and school learning. Book Swap allowed us to share new reading books and gave us a chance to say a hello. Then at the end of the month we had our own UK day. There was lots to learn and lots of fun with craft, engineering and cooking too!



March

March began with another fantastic Ravensfield World Book Day competition (this year based on the Dan Santat book *After the Fall*) It was this month that we got all our children back in school again. Life felt good with everyone together again. We celebrated when 42 children graduated from Children's University for 2019/20



April

Spring began to make itself known – the apple trees came into blossom and the tadpoles in the pond started their wriggle! The end of April saw a focus on art in nature. We all focussed on developing our art skills. What a lot of skills were developed that day – sculpture, mixed media, sketching, painting, the list goes on!



May

Mayday became a time to remember our teacher colleague, Miss Greaves. Many families walked and shared pictures. More than £300 was raised and Miss Greaves's family have just taken the cheque to the RNLI in Moelfre, Anglesey – her favourite charity and favourite place. Thank you. To finish the term we had bouncy castles galore – with lots of fun and laughter in the hall!



June

Ducklings in Reception! We loved them. Everyone made a detour passed their window to take a peek. As we waved them goodbye, 30 chicks hatched in Nursery! Later we visited by the Olympic torch and took part in the relay which will end in Tokyo this summer. We then celebrated again as 56 children graduated from Children's university for 2020/21



July

In the blink of any eye, we've arrived in July. Year Six are busy rehearsing their production of *Peter Pan* ready for recording, Nursery are preparing to turn into pirates for a day while the rest of the school are waiting for the One Adventure excitement in the last week of term. Meanwhile, staff are planning for a very 'normal-looking' September while ensuring that everyone stays safe and healthy.



We also say goodbye to some fantastic colleagues: Mrs Kavanagh and Ms Green are all retiring. Mrs Thackeray, Miss Miranda and Mrs Mottram are leaving us for pastures new and Miss Ingham is having a baby. We wish everyone the best for the future! In September, we will be welcoming back Mrs Taylor-Stott and Mrs Keary and a new teacher Mr Smith.