



North Primary School and Nursery

A town centre school with a strong community ethos

September 2020

Dear Parents

Welcome back to a new school year. For many of you it will have been a long while since doing the school run, with home learning being the challenge of the day.

Our annual letter to parents usually reflects on achievements of the past school year. The year started off really well, Year 6 had a great time on their adventure holiday at Weymouth. We were so sorry we could not continue to give them the year 6 experience they deserved, especially in the summer term, due to covid 19, but we are hoping to welcome them back at some point in the future.

New after school clubs were established; gardening, circus skills, STEM and the 5pm Club, sadly these also became a casualty of covid. One exception was the NORVAC club, (NORth Virtual Astronomy Club) a virtual club with lots of fascinating facts about our night sky.

We had all the fantastic CXXV birthday celebrations, both formal with VIP guests and a birthday cake and informal with a carnival style celebration. Magnificent art work, commissioned to mark our 125th anniversary, was presented to the school, and we look forward to the publishing of a memories book, which Laura Davison is compiling.

Christmas productions took place; the Reception nativity; KS1 The Night before Christmas and lower KS2 Lights Camel Action. Year 5 and 6 held a traditional carol concert which is always a very moving evening, and KS1 sung carols in St Peters Church.

The school was awarded a bronze speech and language award. There were lots of sporting events including the Panathalon held at the former Olympic Aquatic site in London. The Robot club excelled again at the Vex National finals, and were rewarded with a visit to the Mayor's parlour.

Unfortunately, Covid 19 then came along, and in late March the lockdown came with home schooling becoming the "new normal" along with regular teacher phone calls to your home. Despite all the difficulties there was some fantastic home learning taking place, and it was great to see all the different projects and ideas published in Newsline. A new award of Home Learner of the Week was established. Some pupils came up with fund raising ideas for the NHS, including Izzy's NHS flower appeal. Easter Bonnets were modelled if not paraded and Molly won the North's Got Talent online competition.

When the school reopened for Nursery, Reception and year 1 children, in June, I had the chance to join a Reception bubble. It was amazing to see how well this worked, and how quickly the children all adapted. Everyone felt safe in their bubble, and I am sure that with the whole school returning, and bigger bubbles forming, we will all adapt to the new ways of working.

Who knows what the year ahead is going to bring; many challenges that is for sure, and a different way of working. It may not be possible to run the many community events we enjoy, including school visits, especially in the short term. Governors and staff will continue to do all they can to ensure school life runs as smoothly as possible and the children feel safe and supported in their learning. We know we can count on your support with all the new rules and regulations that have been put into place and the changes that we are having to make.

I am sure as North School enters its 126th year there will be much to celebrate again, and we look forward to the time when we can welcome the whole community back into the school.

We wish you well for the year ahead

Jan Blackwell
Chair of Governors

