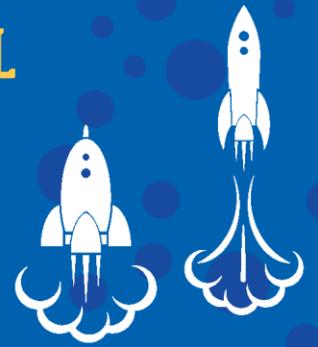
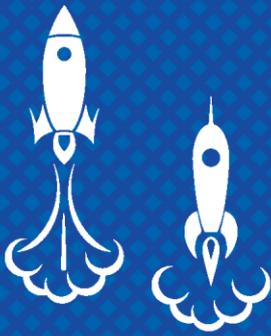


WARWICK ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Issue 11

July 2021

School Year 2020-21



House DISCOVERY



House ENDEAVOUR



House ENTERPRISE



House INTREPID

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 6th July- Transition Day

Tuesday 13th July- Reception Trip to Tropical World

Monday 26th July- Last day in school

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the final edition of the headteacher's newsletter for this academic year.

I thought that I would spend some time reflecting on the year that we have had...

September brought with it the 'new normal'. We quickly adjusted to this and made the necessary adjustments to the curriculum, classes, lunchtimes, home times – the list was endless. Children were introduced to 'bubbles' and soon realised that this was not something fun – in fact – it was an invisible perimeter that surrounded them which they would be told to stay within. The children listened attentively, obeyed (without really understanding) and trusted us to make the right decisions.

Late autumn arrived and bubbles started to close. The children were told to isolate; their faces sullen, their shoulders slouched, they left the school building and waved their goodbyes. Many had questions which we tried to answer: they wanted to know whether they could play with their friends outside and when the pandemic would end. Younger children spoke of Covid as if it was all that they had known and older children worried that someone they loved would die.

Teachers spoke of worried children that just wanted us to tell them that it was going to be just fine. So we carried on with hope and a smile and staff persevered to make the 'new normal' as 'normal' as it could be in hope that the children might just forget for a while. Christmas came and went and then the news came that things were getting worse. On January 4th, after just 1 day back, the school would close for almost 3 months.



Most of you will have worked out by now that we at Warwick Road plan for all eventualities. Way back in November planning was already in place for what we might do if another lockdown happened: all staff had received training on Google Classroom, books had been bought and online resources were in place. On Jan 4th, when other schools were in a panic as to what they would do, we launched Google Classroom and were back to educating the children! Most children responded to the learning well with some of the youngest children having weekly prizes delivered to their doorstep – the staff were determined that the pandemic would not win. Teachers found innovative ways of teaching children and keeping them engaged - this was no small feat. Teachers found themselves teaching to an audience of smaller siblings and parents, too; although daunting, they continued. Support staff joined in, too, and taught smaller groups of pupils. Just as enthusiasm was wavering and children were getting fed up of online learning, the news came that schools would re-open. The cheers that came from the staff can only be likened to those coming from the stadium when England scored 2-0 against Germany last night.

March arrived and the children returned slightly taller and quieter than we had remembered. Again, they listened and were so eager to learn. When we told them that they would be doing double English and maths, we waited with baited breath at their reactions; however, the children responded with smiles and an eagerness to get started. We promised the children treats and trips (I didn't really know where we would be able to take them, but take them somewhere we would).

Staff kept the momentum going with children. Ramadhan and Eid came and went and the children loved the comradery it brought. They chatted about all the exciting things they had done and the younger children could be found praying in the little masjids in the classrooms. Eid presents were gifted and the children left with presents tucked under their arms, a skip in their step and smiles on their faces.

The promise of good weather and plenty of time outside brought with it optimism ☺ The promise of trips was getting harder to keep with everywhere saying 'no!' Then, the news we were hoping for: Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Alton Towers and Tropical World, said 'yes!' You can imagine my relief! Disappointing one child is upsetting but disappointing 340 children is on a whole different level.

Then June arrived and our hearts sank and bubbles started to close, again. This time, however, it was the children who were getting very sick; unspoken words in the staffroom and thoughts echoing in the empty classrooms screamed 'please, not the children'. Our anguish and fears were soon wiped away as our children bounced back into their classes ready to learn ☺

So what are the lessons that this year has taught us?

Nothing is guaranteed,
People are our most precious possessions,
Time with families and loved ones is invaluable,
Playing board games is actually fun,
Doing nothing is also okay.

I would like to end with a big thank you. Thank you to the parents/carers for working with us to do the best for your child and for inviting us into your homes. Thank you to all the wonderful staff who have worked tirelessly to provide the best education. Thank you to the office staff who have persevered with all the changes, to our caretaker and the cleaning staff who have kept our schools Covid secure, to the kitchen staff who have continued to provide delicious food, to the Governing Body for their continued support.

I would also like to thank you all for trusting me to do the very best for your children ☺