



FEJS NEWSLETTER

17.07.2020

STAFF HAD SO MUCH FUN MAKING THE VIDEO TO SHARE WITH YOU WHEN WE WERE MISSING YOU!

Well what a year!

As we come to the end of the year, we would normally be sending out End of Year Reports. In these unusual times and having not had the opportunity to complete assessments since March, we decided instead to celebrate some of the positive things that came out of the last few months and to say thank you.

Working Together

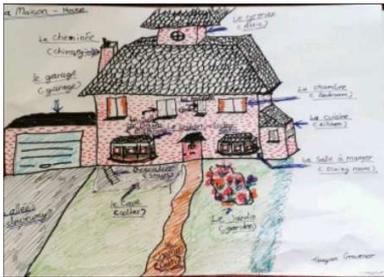
As schools shut their doors with just 2 days notice back in March, we all stepped into the unknown. New ways of teaching, new ways of learning.

Staff quickly developed expertise in Purple Mash and MyMaths. They made videos and blogs to explain things. Even collective worship was done through Class Dojo. TT Rockstars challenges were fiercely fought across the school! Parents sat and patiently supported their children through their learning - doing an amazing job, day on day. When there were problems staff and parents worked together to find a way around them.



Communicating

Despite the challenges in locking down, we managed to find new ways for our school community to communicate. Class Dojo allowed us to share information on school and class stories that kept us feeling connected. Children could share their work on their portfolio and share what they were getting up to at home.



Some of the wonderful work sent to portfolios.

Staff loved being able to talk to children through the comments, whether it was to say well done, or to help them through a problem. Staff could also talk directly to parents - sometimes literally just a chat to catch up.



Sharing VE day celebrations with us.

It reminded us that we were all still sharing in the care of FEJS children.

We shared all sorts of little tasks and people got involved in all of them. From mindfulness to natural art and designing all sorts of things from reusable bags to

playgrounds. Children worked at home with families and took photos to share with us.



Some of the fabulous projects children completed at home in response to the challenges.

The amount of supportive dojo messages and texts the school received during this period was incredibly touching and meant a great deal to staff.

Sharing

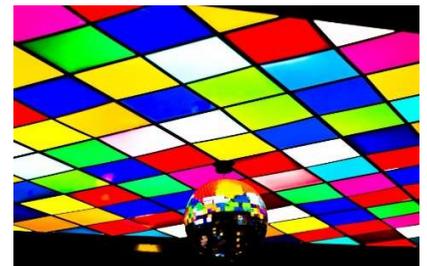
We found ways to share experiences even though we couldn't physically be together.

School radio was expertly run by Mr Redman and parents were so supportive in helping children to send in recordings of themselves

reading out some superb work to share with the rest of the school community. Families listened at home and staff also listened whilst they set and marked work online, feeling so proud whenever one of "their" children could be heard on the radio.



Each Friday night bought the much awaited school disco with families and staff waiting to tune in and children sending us pictures of them dancing along.



Each evening bought the reading of the latest chapters in the bedtime stories from a wide selection of teachers who were desperately missing being able to read to their classes in real life.

Teachers will always remember the laughter and the enjoyment in making their video for the children and the excitement as we watched the number of views climb. And who could ever forget Mrs Wood at the drums!

In School

As more children began to return after June 1 - the school began to come back to life. Teachers somehow managed to juggle online learning between those at home and those in school. Staff in school managed to make life

fun whilst sticking to the new rules.



Playing footgolf on the field.



A socially distanced sports day.



Making panels for the alternative well dressing.

Changes

The hardest part of this period has been trying to make transition happen in a meaningful way whilst children couldn't do physical visits. Some of our Y6 children were able to return to us for a while and it was lovely to see others when they picked up

their Y6 leavers' hoodies yesterday.



Year 6 fetching their hoodies - so lovely to see them.

Equally it has been such a difficult time for our Y2 parents as their children prepare to come up to us never having been in the school or met us. Setting up a Class Dojo so early for them has allowed us to begin to form the good relationships that make this school so special and we are looking forward to meeting them all in person in September.



Some of the amazing Year 2 work we have received - already part of our FEJS community.

Thank you

We would like to say a massive thank you to all our parents. For supporting children working at home, for your patience as we sorted out technical issues and for your supportive messages throughout the whole period.

Thank you to our school governors who have supported the school leadership so solidly as the masses of government guidance has continued to arrive and plans have been drawn up and then changed and changed again. Thank you to our parents who have been so patient in waiting for us to pass on arrangements.

But most of all thank you to our children. For their amazing ability to get used to the strange new rules and just carry on - with their friendships, with their learning, and with the fun!

Good luck to those of you leaving us. Welcome to those children joining us. We can't wait for everybody from Y3 - Y6 to be back together as soon as possible.

Take care.
Be safe.
See you soon.

Mrs S. Parkes
Acting Headteacher