



2020 certainly has brought our school community more than we bargained for. We began back in January full of high hopes for the Spring and Summer Terms ahead.

Following extensive rehearsals, our school choir sang with over 8000 other children at the London O2 Arena at the Young Voices concert in February. It was an amazing experience, which would not have been possible without countless lunchtimes sacrificed by the choir to rehearse and the dedication of Mr May, Mrs Onley and Mrs Coventry. Thanks to our Parish Council who helped to fund the coach to get us there. The PC have also, more recently, paid for a new flagpole after ours collapsed during the lockdown! We are very grateful to the committee for their ongoing support of the school and the next generation of parishioners.

Two days later, our Year 3s performed at the Northampton Boy's School in 'Junction 20'. Their performance was truly fearless as they danced, cartwheeled and flipped over the stage in front of a packed house of secondary school pupils and their parents. Special thanks goes to Miss Dalton for organising the experience and to Jacob – an ex-Pattishall pupil and student at the Boy's School, who came in weekly to teach the children their routines.

Towards the end of February, we had unbridled success at the School Games, where out of 100 schools we gained a podium place in 'New Age Curling'. One of the team – William – stepped in with just 20 minutes practice!

On 28th February, our amazing FoPs Team came together to run the annual Pancake Flip, which as ever was a flipping success! Little did we know that this would be our last FoPs event of the year.

On 5th March we celebrated World Book Day, with all the children and staff coming dressed as a word. We had: 'angelic', 'exotic', 'enveloped', 'environmental', 'courageous', 'affluent', 'sophisticated', 'angry', 'cosy', 'anomalous', 'theatrical', 'greedy' and 'yellow'. Much fun was had by all at the cosy story time at the end of the day too.

Then, at 3.15pm on Friday 20th March, after 48 hours' notice, we closed our doors indefinitely. It was an immensely unsettling time for everyone. Our teaching team went into overdrive, reinventing education from a virtual platform and the whole community pulled together to establish the 'new normal'.

Whilst we have been apart, we have come closer together as a school community. We raised several hundred pounds for the Brain Tumour Charity on 'Wear a Hat Day'. Our Reception class also raised close to £3000 for the Hope Centre by having a 'Big Sleep In', where they were sponsored to sleep somewhere uncomfortable to help remind us all of those who have no fixed abode. We also enjoyed sharing our photos of us all dressed in blue to support the NHS and our VE Day tea parties.

On 10th May, the PM Boris Johnson announced that we are to begin our phased return to school. So, on 2nd June 2020, we welcome back our Reception and Year 1 classes and our Year 6 class on 3rd June. We will also be welcoming back children of critical workers, who are mostly in Year 4.

And whilst school will be a little different, it isn't scary. We have put in place robust safety measures and systems to help mitigate the ultimate risk; including an anti-microbial fogging courtesy of HPS Services. Our amazing teachers and support team are all very much looking forward to seeing some life breathed back into the building – the way it should be. And as the infection rate decreases, we hope to welcome more and more children over the coming months. We know that things will be a little different for a while yet, but we are optimistic.

I would like to take this opportunity to say the most enormous thank you to my team for their dedication and commitment to the children throughout this uncertain time. I'd also like to thank all of the parents for their support and good humour – even though things have been really tough at times, I have never felt so proud to be part of the Pattishall family. But the biggest thanks goes to the children of Pattishall CE Primary School, who have shown immense resilience, determination and grit as they have had to give up socialising with their friends as well as the routine that going to school brings.

I have missed you all very much – I can't wait to see you again – now is the time to begin to look ahead.

Mrs McLean

Head Teacher