



## St. John's Newsletter

December 2020

### **A message from Fran Pass, Headteacher of the School:**

Well 2020 nearly over, and what a year that was.

At the end of a very busy and successful term, I would like to thank you and your children for all their hard work, patience and achievements. I also wish to thank the staff team for their dedication and commitment during these very difficult times as well as parents/carers for their continued support.

We have many successes and good news stories to share and celebrate together. Above all I feel the greatest success has been the engagement in learning that despite all has taken place. As far as possible a full curriculum has been offered to the children and young people (CYP) which for the vast majority of time they have engaged in with enthusiasm and willingness.

Reading is a feature of our development for this academic year and nothing gives me more joy than walking around the school and seeing our CYP lost in a book or other reading materials. Parents/carers have informed us that this has trickled out to home and that their children are reading books or using reading skills in the home environment. Wow lifelong outcomes - let's give a big tick to that!

Other messages from the home have been that our CYP are using our scripts with their parents when they are identifying that they may be coming off of their baselines. Something is definitely sinking in.

A big up to the new CYP who have joined us over the last couple of months. They have realised that we are here to help and no matter how bad they think they are behaving, we see through that to the messages they are giving us. Then together we have been able to find a solution and move forward.

During this year we have had themed days and people both young and old have engaged with enthusiasm. The reception has now turned into a gallery of these special events, which I hope once 'this' is all over you will be able to view and like me smile at the evidence of a happy environment.

This time has taught me many things but the overarching memory and one that I want to develop and continue with is: the way that we, parents, carers, staff and CYP worked, listened and supported each other. When times were hard we were together and as we move to brighter times we will retain that feeling of togetherness.

Fran



As we approach the end of the year, it is important that we look back at the wonderful start to this academic year, despite the current global climate. Without exception, all our children and young people have done exceptionally well and shown great resilience and we as a staff team are incredibly proud to be part of their educational journey.

## ♥ Wellbeing

### PJ Day

One of our young people organized a full school event, which encouraged us to wear our pjs for the day. This was to raise donations for resources and equipment for the school. Lots of staff and young people got involved and in the winter weather, we were all very warm!





## ● Communication

### Remembrance Day in Apollo class

All our CYPs have developed their communication skills through discussion and active questioning. One recent theme which was explored was Remembrance Day. Apollo class produced a particularly effective display around this learning.







## ★ Skills

### Decorating the School and Residential trees

As part of a gardening session, CYPs helped to decorate the Christmas trees for both reception and Seaford House. Of course, Christmas songs were a must and we made sure that reception was clean and tidy afterwards.







## Independence

### Developing independence in the outside spaces

Being outdoors is an important part of learning through engaging with the natural world. It has been hugely noticeable that our CYPs have become very confident in exploring and working within the grounds. Whether its harvesting fruit, minibeast hunting, clearing an environment whilst working towards AQAs, or following visual structures to make lavender bags, everybody has become more familiar and independent with carrying out these tasks.







## Employability

### 'The Spaghetti Challenge'

This term, the upper school have been working towards an ASDAN accredited course to develop their Employability skills. One focus has been developing problem solving skills, through games and team activities. Below are photos of 'The Spaghetti Challenge,' which involved making the tallest free-standing structure using spaghetti and masking tape. Some of the structures were more successful than others, however everyone had fun taking part!

