



End of Term Summer 2020 Memories

Dear Parents and Carers,

I never expected to be ending the term in this way, but here we are at the end of another incredible year. My last Newsletter was back in March just after book week. Now four months on, we have all been through a rollercoaster of events completely beyond anything we could have predicted, imagined or have had any control over. I would like to thank you all for your support over the last few months.

Back in March, many of us became unwell or could not come to school to keep family members safe. By closing the school and everyone staying at home that week before schools closed officially would have kept many, many people's lives safe, and prevented others becoming ill. It has been a long journey for everyone, and for those of you who have had to deal with sadness and uncertainty, over the past few months, please be aware that that you can always contact us for help and support, whatever the need may be.

The school quickly reopened again to provide a safe place for our vulnerable children to attend and the children of parents who had to continue their work supporting our critical services.

We also opened our new online school. Nursery and Reception had never used Dojo before and had to learn through trial and error how to support and teach our children and, hopefully keep them happy and entertained.

In the middle of Lockdown, the world was shaken by the events that happened in America with the horrific murder of George Floyd. All over the world people spoke out for Black Lives Matter, and used the opportunity to have a voice that is beginning to be listened to. As a school we have already started to take action, ensuring our curriculum educates staff and children about the prejudices that still

remain in our country today and the historical events that brought them about and what we can do to eradicate them. Thank you to anyone who has already taken action by protesting or speaking out, please do not stop.

Then, in June we opened for Year 1 and Reception; however, it was by no means the same as before. Resources were taken away and children were taught in small groups by different adults and were not allowed to mix with their friends.

As I sat by my office window last Thursday I could hear a group of children in Reception happily playing ring-a-ring-of-roses. They played and sang for at least half an hour and it made me realise how creative and resilient they are, keeping themselves happy and entertained with limited physical items, and, how those old nursery rhymes continue to play a part in a child's play!

With so much going on around the world our children here at George Tomlinson have been amazing! I would like to thank them for being so incredibly adaptive and getting through the last few months, regardless of the continual uncertainty and change. In this newsletter, I want to celebrate and share some of our favourite work, stories and moments from the past four months. I hope you enjoy them too!

NURSERY

Everyone has a story to tell and this is our Nursery's.

Last summer, the Nursery had a new floor installed. The work was carried out quickly so it could be ready for the children coming back in September; however, by October large bubbles started to appear in the floor. This got so bad that part of the Nursery was cordoned off and a large area was unsafe and unusable. The floor was damp and a replacement was needed. The work was booked for the Easter holidays; however, once the floor was



End of Term Summer 2020 Memories

removed we could see that all the joists and timbers were completely rotten underneath. This job was going to take a lot longer than expected! Unfortunately, the Nursery was unable to open in June with Reception and Year 1.

Just as the work on one side of the Nursery was completed, it was noticed that there was some work to be done on the other. Luckily we have the holidays to complete this work and everything will be ready for September.

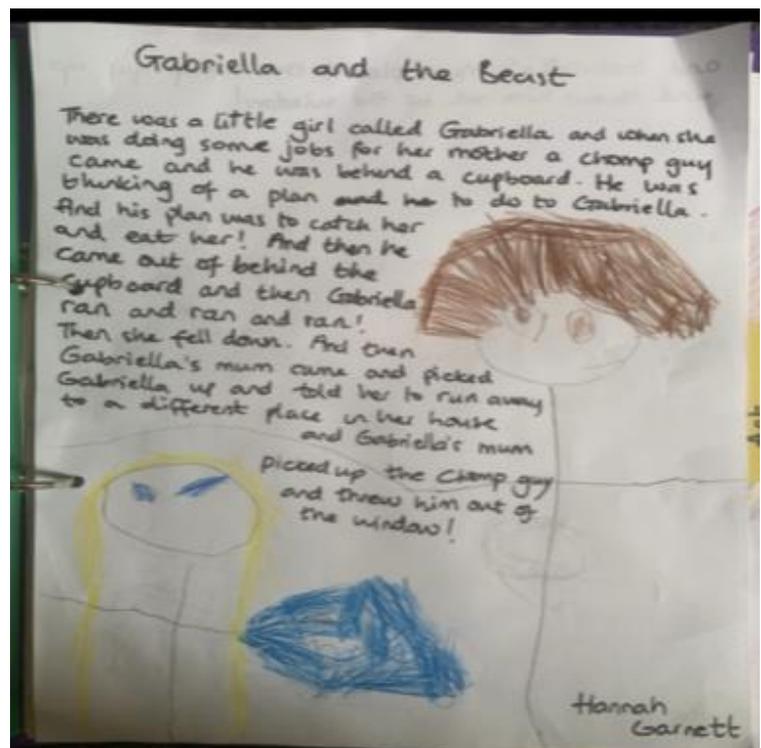
Ms Johnson and the Nursery team have been great, delivering videos and stories on Dojo. My favourites have been the number, nature and phonics hunts, and Mrs Cox's toilet roll activities! They have chosen some of their favourite work for you to enjoy!



Ruby experimenting with different objects to see if they float or sink just like Mrs Cox.



Zaroon making his patterns with different objects after watching Ms Tuvey making her patterns at home.



Hannah telling her mum a story and her mum scribing for her.



End of Term Summer 2020 Memories



Hannah gathering lots of things beginning with 'P' she found a lot more than Ms Johnson. Gabriella exploring with her binoculars that Mrs Cox taught us how to make.

Here are just some of Ms Kent's favourites from Pine Martens!



Oscar has been measuring the length of spoons and placing them in order from the longest spoon to the shortest spoon.



Gabriella's mini monster.

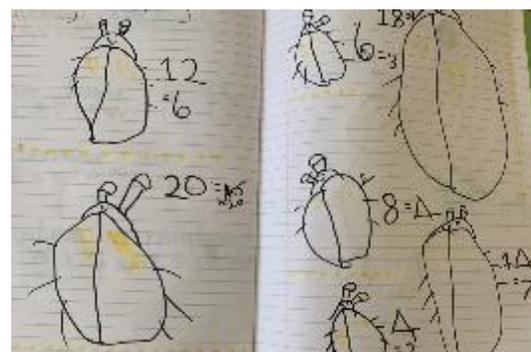


Lury drew a picture of Ms Kent teaching a lesson about capacity. I used green water in jars.

Lury labelled the water jars, full, half full and empty. I think that the picture looks just like me.



Sara writing her shopping list just like Ms Johnson.



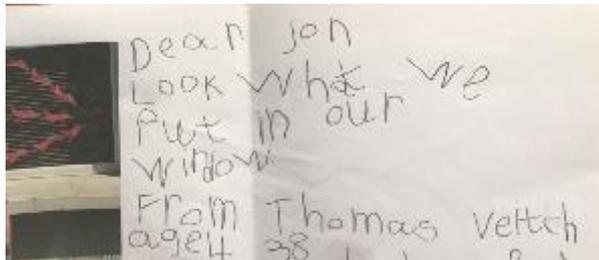
RECEPTION

Everyone has loved the reception online provision during lockdown, especially the teacher's wonderful videos. The feedback from children and parents has been amazing.



End of Term Summer 2020 Memories

Ottie has been halving numbers using the ladybird shapes.



Thomas wrote a letter to the Red Arrows and was extremely lucky to get a reply, which he shared with us.



Arthur sorted out the rhyming words in our phonics lesson and added a joke which I really enjoyed.

I have sent a link to the video with Arthur telling me his joke.

dog	cat	hen	mill
Log	bat	ten	till
Fog	mat	den	drill
Fog	hat	pen	ill

"Hey Miss Kent do you know a cat sat down on a mat to chat to a rat."



Finlay helped his daddy to cut some wood and they made a number line for measuring.



I have also been busy in lockdown. I dusted off my old Singer sewing machine to make a memory elephant using my mum's favourite jumper. As you can see above. Ms Kent.

Ms Moss and Mrs Rimmer

It was wonderful to see how engaged and happy the children were on Dojo during lockdown. There were some very inventive ideas that showed that the children were using what they had at home to pursue their fascinations and interests. Two examples are Malakai's 'Jet Potty' which he planned, designed and made a prototype of and Meli's zip wire for her cuddly toys to have some fun on.



End of Term Summer 2020 Memories



Both these cracking contraptions made me smile and feel proud.



Meli made a video about her zip wire - I have attached a still from it.

During lockdown I have kept occupied by finding creative things I can do while sitting in bed, as well as doing some gentle gardening. My children and I planted a few seeds and now have some tomato and bean plants growing in our garden, plus some lovely bright orange marigolds and a patch of wild flowers. These have cheered me up when sitting in my back garden on sunny mornings.



I have made necklaces, knitted a jumper and a cardigan, and taught myself how to do macramé! I have been taking a short daily walk with my greyhound Betty and my family, and am looking forward to when I can go on longer walks in the forest. I have learned how to do some special breathing and stretching exercises to strengthen my lungs, and I am practising them every day!

I have enjoyed looking on Class Dojo - watching all of the Teachers' videos and marvelling at all of the amazing things you have been busy learning during lockdown. Most of all, I have missed you all very, very much and I can't wait to see you again. Have a wonderful summer.



Ms Moss



End of Term Summer 2020 Memories

Ms Garrett's favourites!

Ibrahim sent in a photo of one of his activities that he'd shared, he had socially distanced all his dinosaurs! Amazing! They all looked like they were still having fun but at a safe sensible distance!



I really enjoyed working with Ms Chambers and Group 12 during lockdown. She even brought in her saxophone one day and played it brilliantly along with our song Three Little Birds by Bob Marley! I'd never tried making sourdough before. Ms Chambers brought me a sourdough starter called Sammy and I made my first loaves this weekend. They were delicious!

The stories that children have sent in have been so much fun to read. Ibrahim has so much detail in his and Zoe had worked hard over days to make hers. I have really missed the Helicopter Stories at the end of the day so I really enjoyed hearing them and seeing them acted out! Leon's story was very exciting for us all! You also all did really well with acting out Handa's Surprise for us!

It seems like a long time ago we started looking at tadpoles and eggs but the lifecycle drawings you produced were incredible! There was such detail and careful labelling in those pictures, you should all be very proud. Elizaveta worked really hard on hers and did some lovely handwriting with it!



YEAR 1

During lockdown, Year 1 accessed a more formal approach to learning. There were daily activities in maths, literacy and phonics. Children produced huge amounts of work on Dojo, far too much to post. We all enjoyed Mr McNamee's polished phonics videos on 'youtube!' And more recently his guitar playing!!

However, in June, some children returned to school and worked in small bubbles. Every week on Dojo, Miss Lucy shared the wonderful activities that the children got up to during the summer term.

I thought I would share the work with you again so everyone can enjoy seeing what wonderful activities the children got up to each week in school. Thanks Miss Lucy!!!

Today we began the process of making our tie-dye t-shirts. The weather has been beautiful so we spent most of the day outside. Some children created a dinosaur water park!

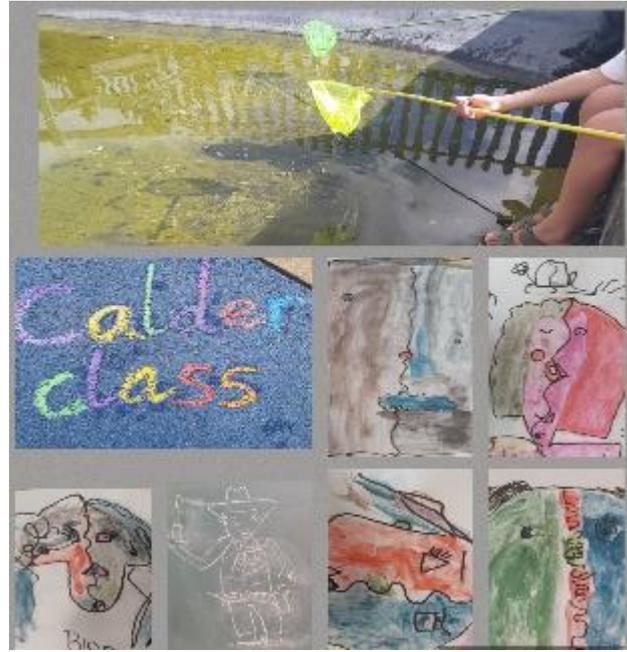




End of Term Summer 2020 Memories



art. Can your children remember a fun fact about Alexander Calder?



A busy start to the week, today we spent the morning doing our daily caption, hand writing, cosmic yoga, bike riding and pond dipping! This afternoon all of the children were really focused on creating their own Picasso style portraits!

We definitely have some budding artists in Calder Class! Today some children followed a step by step 'How to Draw' book. We used graphite pencils (after learning where graphite comes from) and then used water to demonstrate blending and shading techniques. Later in the day we were busy learning how to do the 'column method' in maths. Some children were incredibly busy in the edible garden, building their own garden centre!

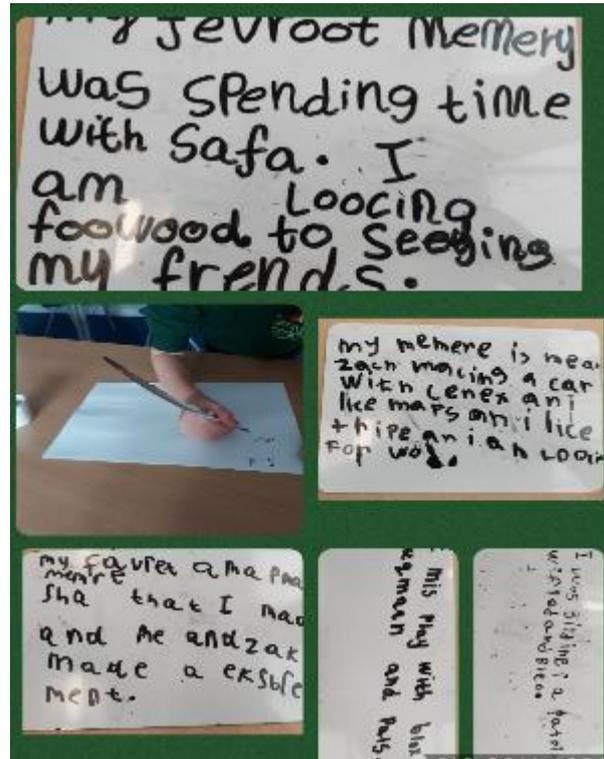
Finally we learnt all about Alexander Calder and created our own versions of his amazing





End of Term Summer 2020 Memories

Today was a very busy day! In the morning we did our daily caption, cosmic yoga and hand writing! All of the children have been practicing their cursive writing and we are so impressed! We practiced out alternative sounds in phonics and before you know it was lunchtime! After lunch we had a mini sports day, luckily it didn't rain and the children had a great time measuring how far they could jump (I think we have lots of Olympians) racing on the scooters, dribbling a football around the tyres, basketball shots, obstacle courses and side jumps. Finally, we made ice cream... some might have called it ice cream soup.



We have really been focusing on our pre cursive writing formation and some children have even started using it in their daily caption writing! Today we finished painting our clay models. We aimed to go to the field but we were unlucky, fingers crossed for tomorrow instead!

Today was the last day of year 1 for some children. This morning we spoke about our favourite memories of year 1; we spoke about the lovely times we had on our school trips, playing outside in the edible garden, picking and eating the fruit/vegetables, making patterns, science experiments, our Christmas show, using K'nex, going to the field and making things! We then watched a film and had some popcorn. Before lunch we had our last 'Wakka Wakka Friday' (we reallllllly missed Ms Shakes) and before you knew it, it was home time!



ECO NEWS



Lockdown didn't stop our Eco Warriors from continuing to think about the planet and come up with amazing ideas! We were joined by new members in our online Eco Warrior space on Class Dojo and enjoyed sharing our actions, activities and ideas there together. I really missed our weekly meetings and all the successes we were having in school but the enthusiasm of our members was fantastic and energising!



End of Term Summer 2020 Memories

Nawal and Orson shared powerful videos to inspire us, Florence and Eliza made a bug hotel and giant instruction poster, Ethan had created a fabulous assembly for the whole school, Hanaa shared her nature walks with us, Malakai gave us lots of important eco advice and ideas, Kiera shared her home videos about plants, animals and saving energy, Zoe found a spider's nest and observed bee behaviour, Tom did litter picks on his daily walk, Cedric dug a pond, Billy made Eco bricks and Miss Evie created an online Eco Protest for us with Greta Thunberg! Plus, lots more. Phew! I cannot wait to see you all in September, online and eventually in person to continue our great Eco Warrior actions. Well done and keep up the good work during summer!

Thank you to Ms Garrett and her warriors for keeping going during lockdown.

Finally, I would like to thank all the STAFF and parents for all their support and hard work through this difficult and strange time.

I hope have a wonderful summer holiday and we shall be back to a little more normality (whilst still following our safety measures and precautions) in September!!

All the best

Jessica Mendelssohn
EYFS Lead and Assistant Head teacher

Thank you, Reception parents for your generous gifts!!! They were a lovely and welcome surprise!!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 17th July – last day of term school finishes at 1.30pm

Wednesday 2nd of September – INSET DAY

Thursday 3rd of September – Friday day back for Year 1 – Year 6 children

Tuesday 3rd of September – Nursery and Reception start visits

Thursday 10th September – Reception first morning 8.45 - 11.45

Current Nursery – first day back
New nursery children start staggered starts

Friday 11th September Reception children morning only

Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th September – reception children stay for lunch – pick up at 12.45

Wednesday 16th – Reception children – first full day pick up at 3.15

Thursday 22nd October - Reception family morning 9.00 – 9.45

Friday 23rd October last day of term

Monday 25th October – Friday 30th October
Half term

Monday November 2nd – children back after half term

Friday 18th December – last day of term school ends at 1.30 pm

Christmas Break

Monday 4th January – INSET DAY

Tuesday 5th January – INSET DAY

Wednesday 6th January – All children back for spring term 2021