



Christmas Edition 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of the term is rapidly drawing to a close, and unfortunately has had to be moved to remote learning, as numbers of positive cases have soared in Waltham Forest.

The children have settled in and adapted incredibly to their changes in routine, showing resilience to continue to focus on their learning.

They have made remarkable progress since the start of term and their teachers are very proud of them.

We have had a busy few weeks in the run up to Christmas, even for the children that have been isolating.

Last Monday, Year 1 performed their Christmas play to the camera and their teachers. The children did a fabulous job learning their lines and the lyrics of the songs! Well done Year 1! I thoroughly enjoyed watching your performance. Thank you to all the adults behind the scenes, especially Ms Corbett, who has a natural flare for directing and getting these shows together!



On Monday, Nursery and Year 1 took part in our Steel Pan workshop, which was enjoyed greatly, it lifted everyone's spirits. The school will be investing in some new pans, all of our own. Thank you to Ms Garrett for organising this event and to the PTFA for your contributions. The children loved it!

I would like to say another **HUGE** thank you to the **PTFA** for funding the wonderful things, from their event organisation, to funding extra education resources! I also know they are contributing more treats and events next term.



Finally, some sad news, unfortunately Ms Kent will be leaving us at the end of the term.

She has worked incredibly hard at George Tomlinson over the past few years, transforming our Early Years into an excellent provision, and enabling us to give our reception children the best possible start.

We shall miss her immensely, not only as a knowledgeable and committed teacher, but her sharp wit and great sense of humour! She is relocating to Staffordshire and we wish her all the best for her new and exciting future.

*Thank you for all that you have brought to George Tomlinson Ms Kent. Good Luck and please keep in touch.*



Book Day 2019.

Wood work session with Pete Moorhouse.

Staff Xmas video filming 2018!



We are very excited to welcome Mr Young into Pine Martens along with the return of Mrs Manwaring and Mr Wood to support with transition in January.

Please look after yourselves and your families over the Christmas break: social distancing, washing hands regularly and following Tier 3 guidelines, so we can hopefully all get back to school in January.

Happy Christmas and New Year from the Early Years, Year 1 team and myself,  
Jessica Mendelsohn.

Early Years Lead and Assistant Head teacher

## NURSERY

As you are aware, it has been a slightly different few weeks in nursery, as some of our teachers had to work from home last week due

to Covid. The children have adapted quickly, getting busy with their learning, enjoying being with their friends and singing their Christmas songs. They have greatly enjoyed their daily zoom meetings with Ms Johnson, Ms Tuvey and Ms Cox.

They will be providing activities and contact via Dojo for the rest of the week. Thank you to Ms Farhan, Miss Chabou, Mr Wood and Ms Simmons-Bah for keeping everything running. Here are some more pictures from Nursery's workshops on Monday.



## RECEPTION

It has been an unusual start to the year, with two periods of self-isolation and parent meetings held online or over the telephone. The children have settled incredibly well into their Reception classes despite all of this, and we thank parents for your continued support.

So far this year, the children have been busy learning some traditional tales and adapting them to create their own versions. We have focused on counting and number recognition, 2D and 3D shape, measuring and addition. They have also made gingerbread men, hats, learnt Christmas songs and taken part in a variety of workshops such as an African drumming and Dance workshop and a Poetry session. We have had daily Phonics sessions and weekly PE lessons and trips to the school field. The children also have extended periods of time every day when they are free to pursue their own interests and the teachers find teachable moments to support their independent learning.



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We have had a focus on talking about our emotions and developing the children's emotional literacy, with the introduction of calm corners in each class to support this learning.

The children and parents have taken really well to the online learning during our periods of isolation and we have really loved seeing all the children's work uploaded onto Dojo.

We started sending home reading books, and it has been great to read all the comments from home and to see how well supported the children are with their reading. Daily reading is so important as the more they practise the more progress the children make.

We have had 3 to 4 focus children a week this term, however our periods of isolation have led to some being postponed. If your child has not yet had their focus week, please rest assured they will have one at the start of Spring. Once we have completed all of the focus weeks for 'Autumn', we will then begin again. Every child will have another focus week in Spring or Summer 1. This means that you will have a second parent meeting with your child's teacher in Spring/Summer 1. In the Summer term, you will receive a written report about your child's progress and attainment.

During the weeks between our isolation periods, the children in Hedgehogs did some amazing learning. Phoebe made a bird nest and we put it in the tree to become a home for any nearby birds.

During the afternoon an egg appeared! The children worked together to climb up to see it. They thought about how they could keep it warm so it would hatch and decided to use leaves and blue towel. Sara made a 'Mummy' bird to sit on top of it.



Some children wanted a baby bird to hatch and others a baby T-rex. While waiting for it to hatch the children wondered what would happen if a real bird came and took out the paper bird. To stop this happening they made signs to hang in the tree.

They decided it wouldn't fly away over the weekend because "it first needs to learn to fly so it will stay in for a week with Mummy."

Another fantastic piece of learning which took place was the construction of this wonderful car! Raphael worked so hard to build bring all of the pieces together and showed that he could be a very 'focused fox'. He was able to explain each section and used Lego blocks to stop the tyres rolling away! He then went on to use post-it notes to label the different sections of his car!



Well Done Raphael!!

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and we look forward to seeing you all again in January!



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## YEAR 1



Year 1 worked very hard over the past two weeks rehearsing for the Christmas performance. On Monday we recorded Davey the Donkey Saves Christmas - a play about the benefits of teamwork. Well done everyone!



In maths we have been learning how to measure using our hands and feet. We have also been using lots of mathematical language to compare the length of different objects.



We are enjoying our daily supported reading groups - predicting what might happen in stories, participating in discussions and developing our vocabulary.



### January Dates 2021

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – INSET Days

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> – All children back to school

### **February**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> - Half term

### **March**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - World Book Week

### **April**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> - school finishes at 1:30 pm – These will be shortened (2 hour) sessions for Nursery.