



# FLORA NEWS

## Head's Blog

On Monday afternoon I received the fantastic news that H&F were providing all school staff the first covid jab. What a relief for all the staff, their families and for the local community.

Jan Parnell, Larry Culhane and co and her team have stuck their necks out for the staff that they represent, going against what the Government has advised. Why? Because it makes sense and H&F clearly care about their staff, pupils and families. As Head of Flora Gardens it really has been a massive moral boost and confidence bolster for all the staff. THANK YOU!

It has been lovely to have the children back this week. Back in full-time education where they belong. I have seen the children excited about seeing their friends, teachers and staff. Happy to be learning and already making progress.

When I was in secondary school, my parents requested permission to remove me from school during term time for a week to go on a holiday of a lifetime. The school reluctantly agreed, on the condition that I would work hard to 'catch up' the work that I missed. I duly complied. I hadn't missed too much work in that final week of the term and, refreshed from our fabulous holiday, I was able to catch up what I had missed very quickly.

The Covid-19 conversation in education is rapidly moving on to whether a programme of 'catch up' is needed to address 'missed learning'. But does the language and focus around this conversation miss the mark? I was able to 'catch up' on 'missed learning' after my holiday, but our children have not spent the last few months on an extended holiday. They have not been relaxing on beaches, or exploring exotic cultures, or engaging in a wealth of well-planned holiday activities. They will not return to school well-rested after a lovely break, ready to 'catch up'.

'Missed learning', too, is a problematic concept. What we really mean by this term is a concern that children will not have made progress through a specific curriculum, towards specific attainment targets and, ultimately towards a set of terminal exams, the results of which could determine their futures.

As a society, we have decided that such learning is important, but we cannot assume that children have not been learning during lockdown, even if that learning does not correspond to the usual curriculum. Children are always learning. Many will have vigorously pursued their own interests, engaged in life skills activities like never before, and undertaken a fast track programme of social and emotional development as they navigate family relationships in a uniquely intense setting where issues must be resolved because there is no option to escape them. Prolonged periods of boredom can be a huge incentive to explore new things and be more creative.

While accessing the remote curriculum has been difficult or impossible for some, many children have made remarkable progress, advancing reading levels, improving their speech and language, and growing in confidence and self esteem as they worked at their own pace, without the pressure cooker of comparison with their peers and fear of public failure.

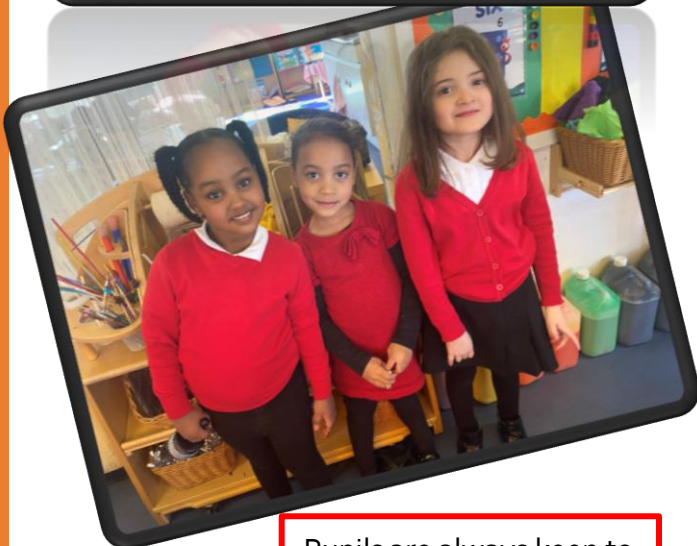
What children need – in fact what society needs – after the pandemic is not 'catch up'. It is 'recovery'. 'Catch up' implies a narrow emphasis on curriculum goals with a focus on getting all children to the same end point as quickly as possible. 'Recovery' acknowledges that the impact of this crisis has been far wider than 'missed learning' and that we will need to begin where children are, rather than focus on where we would like them to be, and how to get them all to that same point as quickly as possible. And that is exactly what we are focusing on at Flora Gardens.

Have a lovely weekend.

A S Naismith

HAPPY  
*St. Patrick's*  
DAY

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day in style this week (as we always do!) with a fantastic performance from Bobby on the Bodhran, very impressive Irish dancing by Saoirse and beautiful singing from all of our pupils. We shared the celebrations virtually with our friends at L&Q, Bobby's company who donated money to us at Christmas.



**RED  
NOSE  
DAY**

Pupils are always keen to show their support for Red Nose Day.

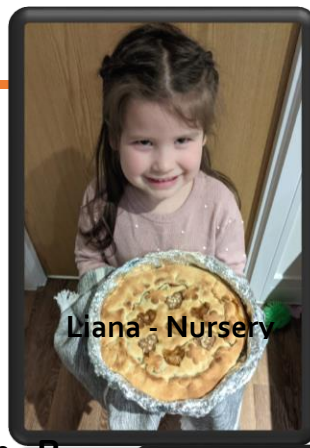


Year 1 are learning all about materials, they discussed and tested out the properties of paper by making paper aeroplanes!





Emilia - Y4



Liana - Nursery



Kye - Michael 3 &  
Kayden R



Cassie Y4



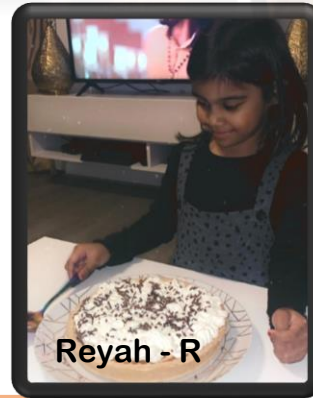
Shahad Y2



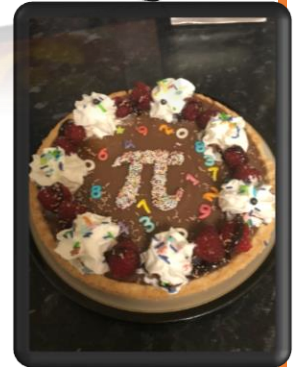
Wissam - R



Ruby - Lily Y2



Reyah - R



Marley Y5

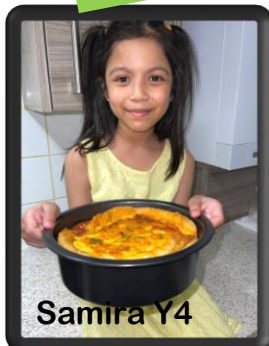
## Pi Day

Mrs Sultan was super impressed with all the entries for the Pie bake off competition. She would like to thank everyone for getting involved. It was so hard for her to choose just one winner so she has chosen her 3 favourite ones.

- 1st place - Emilia (Y4)
- 2nd place - Marley (Y5)
- 3rd place - Liana (Nursery)



Aisha Y5



Samira Y4



Cassien - Y4



Muad R &  
Mohamed Y2



- Madison Y5



Anaiyah R & Nylan Y2



Kavana Y3



Ali E Y2



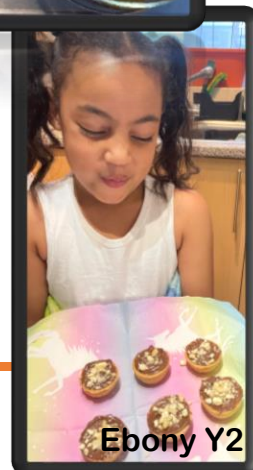
Renae Y4



Adrianna Y3



Odri Y5



Ebony Y2



Ioana - Y4





## Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter bunny will be coming to Flora Gardens on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March** for class Egg hunts.

If you would like your child to join in on the fun then please pay £1.50 via Sims by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March to avoid disappointment.

## Snack Shack

Snack Shack will resume from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March for all KS2 pupils. Prices remains unchanged at 30p per item.

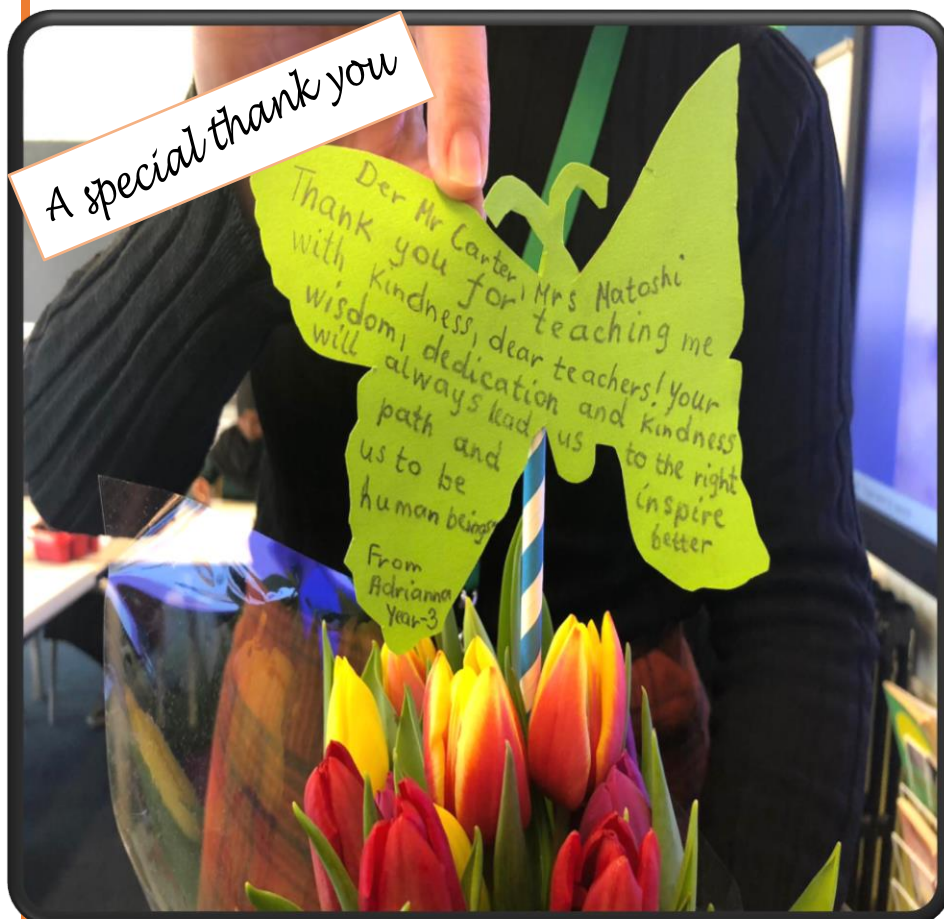


## Value Award Winners

Nursery - Ellie Rose  
 Reception - Adam A  
 Year 1 - Mason  
 Year 2 - Ruby - Lily  
 Year 3 - Kye  
 Year 4 - Emilia  
 Year 5 - Marley  
 Year 6 - Anna & Anh  
 PE -Ioana Y4  
 Spanish - Year 4



A special thank you



Mrs Matoshi and Mr Carter were delighted to receive these beautiful flowers from Adrianna in Year 3.

The weekly homework will continue to be set each Friday on Google Classroom. Please check your child's class page for the weekly Maths and English homework as well as any extra, like Spellings or challenges.

Also please remember to read each night at home and share a story whenever you can!