

FLORA NEWS



Head's Blog

No "catch-up" at Flora Gardens - it's BETTERMENT

Betterment: "An improvement that adds value"

If we had to sum up what we have learned from the past year in a single word, what might that word be? It is difficult to boil down so many experiences, particularly when we are still living through them. But one word that comes to mind is "humility".

The natural world has taught us a lesson about the frailty of the systems on which we rely and in which we put such store. Economies, health and education services, travel, hospitality – all have been put under terrible pressure.

In education, we have learned that bringing millions of children and adults into schools every day and delivering a full curriculum is no mean feat. It is a hugely complex exercise that can be more easily derailed than we might have imagined. The furniture of the education system – exams, tests, performance tables, and inspections – feel a lot less permanent than they did 12 months ago.

Ministers have discovered that just because they say something will happen, doesn't necessarily make it so. In the middle of a pandemic, exams don't go ahead just because the powers-that-be want them to go ahead, and schools don't stay open to all their pupils just because the government keeps repeating the mantra that education is a national priority.

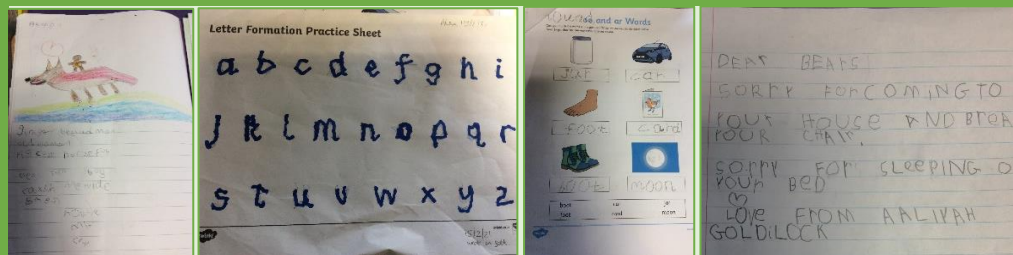
The lessons we have learned from the past year are important as we look forward to the future, and how we repair the damage done to children by the pandemic. There are no shortage of views on what should happen. We've heard a lot about extending school days, a longer summer term, and repeating a year. Scarcely a day goes by either without another report about the impact on mental health, the education attainment gap, and the long-term consequences of the disruption that has taken place.

Boring though this may be for the nation's headline writers, the answers are to be found in the painstaking work that goes on at Flora Gardens and most schools, to identify learning gaps and apply the appropriate support for each individual, rather than in eye-catching policy wheezes.

The truth is that children will have been affected differently. Children have missed out on school trips, they've missed out on celebrations, discos, Halloween, all those sorts of things. At Flora Gardens, as teachers have a sustained, and less disrupted, opportunity to work with the children, the normal stuff of teaching will work its magic for our pupils, and they will get back up to speed relatively painlessly.

At the heart of our curriculum, as always, is well-being and values. Instead of extra lessons, catch-up summer schools and longer school days, Flora Gardens children should be encouraged to spend the coming months outdoors, being physically active and having fun with their friends. Academic progress will take care of itself.

Forget catch-up, the term is BETTERMENT.



Nursery have enjoyed learning their spring term topic "Once Upon a Flora.." and they have produced some amazing work relating to the traditional tales. Ms Owolabi is so proud of Nursery!

All of Zoom's A Stage!

Flora pupils Adelice, Averie, Eldana and Efrata have all become regular and fantastic attendees of an online drama club led by Tie-Dye Drama. Tie-Dye Drama was founded by Flora Garden's previous Link Worker, Ella/ Miss P!

The club is open to any young person aged 5-12 years old. Every week, there is a fun and different theme, always aiming to boost well-being and encourage teamwork and communication skills.

Tie-Dye Drama want to give a huge shout out to Adelice, Averie, Eldana and Efrata!

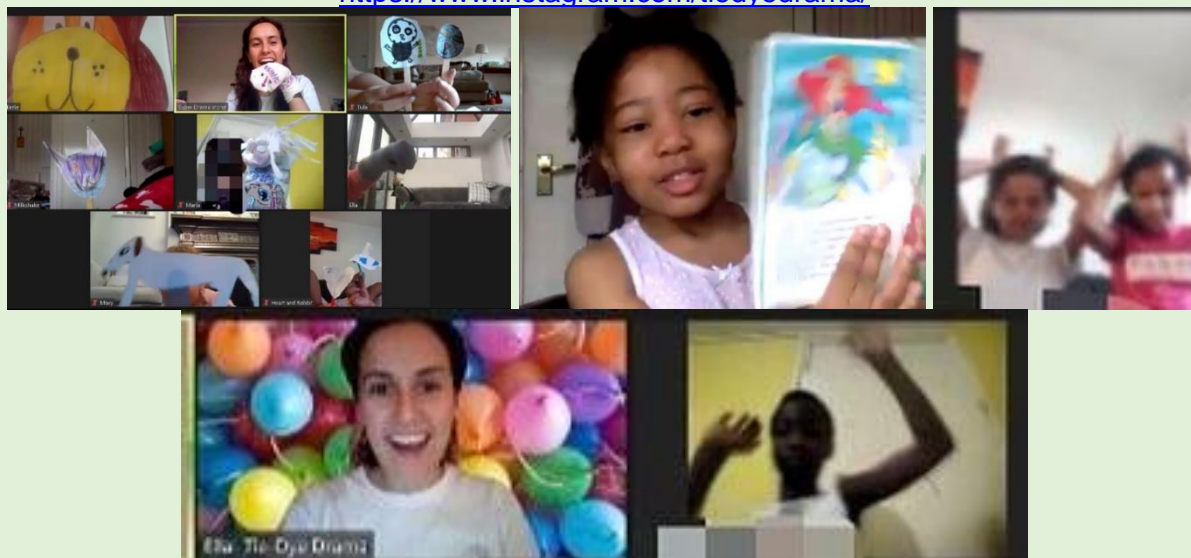
Every week they exhibit Flora Garden's values, such as turning up with positive and upbeat attitudes, enthusiastically joining in with drama games and adventures and respecting regular and new members of the group.

These students particularly thrived in our puppet making workshop, dance party and World Book Day workshops, as is evident in these photos!

In February Half Term, Ella also loved running a West London Zone workshop where the brilliant Anaiyah, Maddie and Adrianna attended with children from across the West London boroughs.

For more information and to book your children onto the workshops, click onto the Tie-Dye Drama website www.tiedyedrama.co.uk or check out the Tie-Dye Drama Instagram page:

<https://www.instagram.com/tiedyedrama/>



Value Award Winners

Nursery: Liana, Baneen, Alex Y, Mouad,
Aaliyah G & Elyas
Reception: Nimo
Year 1: Marina
Year 2: Emani
Year 3: Jaida
Year 4: Zak A & Iqlas
Year 5: Michelle & Maddie
Year 6: Iman
PE: Nylan Y2
Spanish: Aaliyah, Sabrin & Eloise Y5

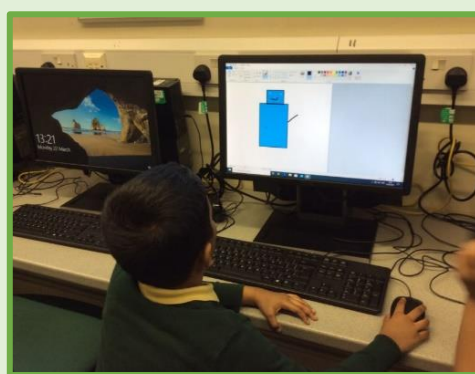
REMINDER!

On Wednesday next week (31st March) we will break up for the Easter holiday at 1.30pm. There will be no clubs or after school service on this day. Pupils return to school on Tuesday 20th April.

ANOTHER REMINDER!

It's really important for pupils to bring their water bottles to school with them every day. We all need to stay hydrated, especially with the weather getting warmer.

Year 1 have been having so much fun being back at school! In science, they've been learning all about seasonal change. They went on a spring hunt, grew their own cress and are responsible for watering their lovely spring flowers each day! In computing, they've been learning about algorithms. They had a go at creating their own video game characters using paint and made their own maze games in the playground using chalk.



Quidditch Club





Year 4 have been designing and painting their own peaches after taking inspiration from illustrations linked to their class text (James and the Giant Peach).



This week Year 2 have been writing instructions and learning about fractions. They wrote instructions on how to make a jam sandwich and cut them into halves and quarters!