



Market Drayton Infant and Nursery School
'An excellent, happy school where we enjoy learning'
A summary from the Governors - July 2021



Isolation, Covid 19, symptoms, key workers and vaccinations are all words we have commonly used over the last year but as the summer holidays approach we hope to return back to 'normal' in September. The pandemic has made us all reflect on our own lives and has demonstrated the tremendous resilience that we all have. We have had to think differently within school to try and deliver the best curriculum we can and continue as normal as possible to support our children, staff and parents alike. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the work that has been going on over the past year.

We returned to school in September in our 'bubbles' with a one way system around the school, children having to use their own equipment and stay in set areas to play and learn—all of which took some getting used to. This felt a little isolating to some, but slowly we were allowed to mix a little more until January when we went into lockdown again. We had already learnt to use Seesaw, the challenge wasn't as hard and children loved working with their teachers and teaching assistants through the TEAMS platform. This year saw a new newsletter being added to our weekly emails, which helped to support families with their remote learning. The work that was completed by the children, supported by parents, was amazing and showed how hard we all worked. This could not have been done without the support of the parents, families and school staff in order to enable learning to continue. We cannot thank you all enough for this.

Supporting wellbeing has remained a priority for the school during the year and has been more important than ever. Teachers continued to regularly check in with students who found things challenging and supported those who returned to school under very different circumstances. March 8th saw the return of everyone to school and learning has continued to be fun and engaging. We have even managed to get the children out on a trip to Fordhall Farm where the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed being out of school and felt like things had returned to normal.

We were all prepared to continue with our transition arrangements and then the announcement came that children in secondary schools were not allowed to carry out 'move up' days. This left us with another challenge of ensuring children were prepared for the next phase of their education and the move to the Junior School. Postcards have been sent to the current year 2 and nursery children from their new teacher in September. Meetings have taken place with parents via TEAMS.

Feedback from parents about remote learning this year:

- Thank you for all the support. The teacher and teaching assistant have both been amazing at responding to the work submitted by my daughter... it's been a moral boost for us all.
- I have told my work colleagues about how brilliant the work on seesaw has been and the encouraging feedback from the teacher. They are lucky to have this support when I know other schools are not meeting these standards. Great job from the team. Thank you.
- Thank you for arranging all the home learning so quickly, under such short notice and difficult circumstances.
- Massive well done to all staff and children during this difficult time.
- We are finding the lessons being set on seesaw are easy to follow and do at home. They have been the perfect length to keep the attention going.



I am sure that you will join me in thanking all of the staff in the school for their dedication and hard work. I would like to thank all of the children, parents, governors and wider community for their continued support and working with the school during these challenging circumstances.

Julie Meijueiro, Chair of Governors

An Exciting Curriculum

The curriculum has been developed further this school year. We are now using an approach where the children return to the same learning concepts again and again in order to deepen their understanding. Staff have developed learning pathways which show clear progression of their learning from Early Years right through to the end of Year 6. We know that some of you have asked for more curriculum information and therefore staff have been developing 'knowledge organisers' which will be shared with your child and you at the start of each learning focus from September. The idea of these is so that you will be able to support your child with their knowledge and learning at home too.



Infant and Junior School Collaboration

The change of leadership structure has meant that this year there had been more joint working between the two schools than ever before. There has been joint staff training and coaching, joint working on the curriculum design, governors working together, joint policies and liaison in many other ways. The biggest development was the joint working to develop the new Visions and Values.

More curriculum information and visions and values can be found on the website:

<https://www.marketdraytoninfants.co.uk/curriculum/>

During lockdown we have improved our own technological skills to continue to find out your views about school using Microsoft Forms. Two of the different questionnaires we have asked you to complete are the RSHE consultation and the Safer School Survey.

Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy Update

The Government policy that was due to change from September 2020 was delayed until the Summer term 2021 because of Covid and states that all schools now need to be teaching RSHE. In the Infant school, this is focusing on Relationships and Health Education and learning how we keep ourselves safe, happy and active. Through the policy we explained how we will be teaching this and the main resources that we will be using. Again, this can be found on our website <https://www.marketdraytoninfants.co.uk/curriculum/>

From the consultation we received 51 responses. All participants agreed with the RSHE policy which is fantastic news. Thank you to all parents, carers, staff and governors who completed the survey.

Safer School feedback

We are happy to report that 100% of our children and parents state that they feel the school site is safe, that children all felt it was tidy and welcoming and that parents were clear about reporting to reception during the school day if they came on to site. The car parking issues you identified are still being discussed and addressed.

Our Strategic Plan and the Year Ahead

Over the next year the work will be around the following aspects of the strategic plan:

- Early Years Foundation Stage — revised framework to be fully implemented
- Curriculum—to embed and strengthen current systems; strengthen quality first teaching
- Supporting middle leaders in developing their curriculum subject and completing the NPQ programmes from this year.
- Raising attainment - for children who are disadvantaged, SEND and children who have been impacted by Covid.

The Local Governing Body

The [Governors' page](#) on the school website tells you who we are, who appointed us and our attendance record. It also lists our relevant business or other interests. It is our job to make sure that everything is in place so that children can do their best learning. We agree our strategic direction, monitor and evaluate the school's work, acting as a critical friend to the Executive Headteacher and Head of School.



The children out on a trip to Fordhall Farm

Market Drayton Infant and Nursery School - Collaboration, Aspirations, Respect and Positivity