

MOSSY LEA MESSENGER

MONDAY, 14th December 2020 XIV · XI · MMXIX

In school, we should be enjoying the Christmas nativities, instead we're going to Class Dojo you a link to Youtube, where you can watch as your leisure, we should have enjoyed a Christmas Singalong and Christmas Lunch with Pingawings, instead we're shipping lunch over from St George's for just us, and we should be fully into the excitement of Christmas, instead we're all a little nervous as we all know if we close a bubble now that's Christmas ruined..... but is it? Let's just stop and pause here. The way we have pulled together, what we have achieved and the fun, educational safe atmosphere we have created at Mossy is magnificent. Not something to take for granted. Not something to brush aside. Something to shout from the roof tops. Because, in the face of massive adversity, we have achieved. We have had fun. We have learned..... yes we've been battered at times.... But, we have survived, and succeeded. Mossy Lea is back to good, and here for good. It's time to come back to Mossy Lea.

These unprecedented times will make 2020 a year to remember for us all granted not all for positive reasons. Friday 20th March was surreal. School's nationally closed, and I began to learn a whole new language: Keyworkers, lockdown, blended learning, and as a staff, we became even more screen focused and immersed in conference calls and I learned how to Zoom. But whilst we may have missed our freedom, our family and mates, there have certainly been life aspects that have improved and emerged through our enforced isolation.

We exercise more regularly outdoors – I have never seen so many people walking and cycling – families especially.

New footpaths, woodland and tracks have been discovered – some only a stone's throw from our own homes!

Families have joyfully experimented in trying different ways to be together each day, sharing quality time—albeit digitally

Games and quizzes both in homes, and virtually, have flourished – remembering the value of connecting with others and introducing some healthy competition to boot!

The biggest increase in IT usage has been in the over 60's age group where grandparents and relatives have embraced screens in order to stay in touch with loved ones.

As we have explored and enjoyed new experiences, we have also connected emotionally in new ways.

We've learned to value our NHS and the caring nature of many other roles. We have donated generously to those who needed help. We've learned the importance of social responsibility by following guidance to protect those we love, and also those we don't even know.

And in school.....

We've learned not to take our freedom and the importance of an education for granted.

Children have appreciated their school and teachers, yet developed their independence too.

Teachers have welcomed pupils into their homes (virtually) and continued a quality education by being courageous and confident as we zoom every lesson to kids now who are in self isolation.

Teachers have remembered the reason they love their job is being in school, inspiring the next generation. We've seen the difference we make, by not making the difference when we closed.

Parents have realised, seen in real life, the importance of the bond of trust between teacher and child.

Parents have witnessed that delivering a lesson is only the tip of the iceberg—it needs planning, pitching accurately, needs checking, and for us teachers, not just for one child—it needs doing for 5 lessons a day. But ultimately as a school, and as a person, although having seen much less of you, I feel I know you better, and vice versa..... You've seen me on the top of Parbold Hill, you've seen me enjoying my evening whisky, you've seen me mess up, you've seen me out of my depth, yet above all you've seen me, indeed every single member of staff at Mossy do their blinking best. Over 2020, far from becoming emotionally distant, our community bonds have strengthened. Our school has at all times remained united, strong and positive.

2020 can be seen as a metaphor for the Birth of Jesus. The birth of Jesus was tough. Unplanned. Created difficulty. Was confusing. Was hard to understand—so has 2020. A lot of joy however came from the Birth of Jesus, and there is a joy of coming through adversity and we need to capture this essence as we move to 2021. We know the 2021 is unclear. Lest we forget Brexit! We don't know what's in store for us.... But we never do. What's great about moving into 2021 is that we are so much better equipped for adversity than we were 12 months ago. We must not let the hardship of 2020 be fruitless. We must not lose what we have learned and discovered. Many people have been devastated by the crisis – bereaved, seriously ill or lost their livelihood – it is incumbent upon us therefore to shape a bright future and embrace the progress we have made through difficult times. Schools are the best places to do this, and we will.... Martyn Joseph, a Welsh singer songwriter said,

*'Here come the young. With open minds and hearts
Inclusive from the start. Here come the young.
Here come the young. They might just save the day
Best get out the way. Here come the young.'*

Now there's a lyric worth thinking about. Happy Christmas everyone, and thank you for all your support this year. Andy

As we approach the business end of the term, and acknowledging that no one wants to self isolate over Christmas please.....

- Do not send your child to school if they, or anyone in the household has symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, cough, change in taste or smell, and in children increasingly stomach cramps, diarrhoea, vomiting) If you are your child has any of these symptoms please get a test, and await the results before your return to school
- Do not send your child to school if they, or anyone in your household are awaiting test results.
- Do not send your child to school if they or anyone in your household has tested positive.
- Do not send your child to school if they have been contacted by test, track and trace.
- Do not send your child to school if you have been on holiday and have to self isolate as part of quarantine.
- Do not send your child to school if they have received advice that they need to resume shielding.

Don't forget, we will be serving Christmas dinnerish on **Wednesday, 16th December**. Many thanks for completing the dinner slips. If your child is bringing their own lunch from home, why not join in with the Christmas spirit and send in a festive snack or treat for them to eat.

Weekly Class Dojo Winners



Congratulations to Martha and Layla.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 15th December	Christmas Performance
Wednesday, 16th December	School Christmas lunch
Thursday, 17th December	A very special visitor to school
Friday, 18th December	Break up at 15:30
Monday, 4th January	Back to school