

WORCESTERIAN
2020-21



RGGS
THE GRANGE

FROM LITTLE ACORNS, GREAT OAKS GROW



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INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEADMASTER

It is my recollection that twelve months ago, I wrote that the 2019/20 academic year would be remembered as the COVID year, and with a cautious start to 2020/21, I pondered what this year would be remembered for? When the children and staff returned to school after the Lent Term Lockdown, I wrote about giving everyone the time to 'Recover; Reconnect; Rediscover'. That is exactly what happened and I am convinced, that by doing so, it provided the school community with a much needed focus and a positive outlook about what our school can provide following adversity. It has not been straightforward, but all staff, children and parents should congratulate themselves on the numerous roles they have played. Providing the children with opportunities to attend residential trips in the Trinity Term was one such offering that enabled the 'recover, reconnect, rediscover' mantra to play out and provide the most positive outcomes for the children.

At the Year Six Leavers' celebration, I retold a story about a man who didn't understand that butterflies needed to fight and struggle their own way out of their cocoons. The moral of this story is that the struggles that we face in life - aren't always bad. In fact, struggles and challenges can make us stronger and more resilient. They can also help to shape our character and resolve. Every time we are able to face a challenge and overcome it, we shape our self-image and strengthen our self-esteem. This may be a lesson for all children as they end one academic year and approach the next. It will be important for them to seek out new challenges and not to rely on others to fix their problems. The importance of facing them head on and not giving up will help them emerge as a greater version of themselves. We, as adults, should take note of this message too.

It goes without saying that all staff across the school have been exceptional this academic year. It has been a momentous effort and impressive teamwork has been at the heart of everything to enable us to cross the finishing line on 8 July. I wish to extend my personal and heartfelt thanks for their unstinting support in maintaining the highest of standards in all aspects of our educational provision as well as helping make the school a safe and happy place.

Gareth Hughes
Headmaster





Despite some staff changes this year, many as a result of our baby boom (!) Nursery continues to thrive with more children than ever queuing up to join us.

Our communication App Seesaw continues to be extremely popular with the parents, allowing them access to photos, videos and messages throughout the day.

Personal hygiene/care is an extremely popular section within the EYFS, due to this we have introduced teeth brushing after lunch, this has been a huge success with both parents and children.

The children continue to explore within their environment and grow as individuals.



This year we welcomed Joanne Bentley as our Butterfly Room Leader, ably supported by her dedicated team.

The Butterflies continue to enjoy their Forest School sessions on a Friday, developing their confidence, self-esteem and problem-solving, they are also extremely fond of the marshmallows and hot chocolate!

We continue to provide an environment for the children to grow in and become confident and happy learners.

RECEPTION

Michaelmas 1

Topic: All About Me

We started the year off with getting to know one another using the overarching topic, 'All About Me'. The children enjoyed sharing photographs and other special items from their homes that were important to them. They spoke enthusiastically about their chosen items with their peers. We got to find out about each other's interests, hobbies, pets and siblings and we discussed likes and dislikes, considering the similarities and differences between one another, families and traditions.

Michaelmas 2

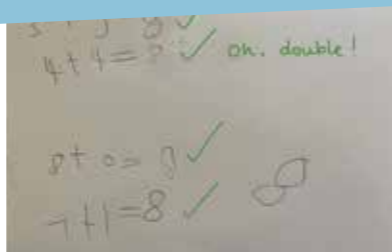
Topic: Journeys

As part of our 'Journeys' topic, the children steered their learning towards a common interest - different modes of transport! Together, we created huge displays in our classrooms to show off our amazing drawings and paintings of our favourite forms of transport, all annotated with what we thought about them! We compared our journeys to school and journeys to different holiday destinations too. Continuing with this topic, we learnt about Rama and Sita's journey in the story of Diwali, and the journey that Mary and Joseph went on before the birth of baby Jesus.

Lent 1

Topic: Explorers

After a wonderful start to the Reception year and a well deserved break, we got off to somewhat of a false start in January, dipping our toes into the Lent term, in school, for just one day before Lockdown number two was announced! From home, as well as those 'Key Worker Children' in school, our Reception pupils became explorers and visited many different environments including, the polar regions, farms, woodlands, beaches, jungles and the African savanna! In school, we have resources to support facilitating children's learning, so it was necessary to practice what we preach and be adaptive, completely rethinking how to help bring the topic to life, for our children at home, whilst learning remotely. Fortunately, our children all had access to a school iPad to use from home and their learning, although now mostly from home, was able to continue seamlessly. Using some clever apps, we were able to deliver fun videos to introduce various challenges. The shared humour was definitely needed to support us all through these strange times. All staff, children and even some parents got involved and despite being in the midst of a global pandemic, we continued to laugh together on a daily basis and enjoy regular video calls together!



Lent 2

Topic: People Who Help Us

The Reception children thoroughly enjoyed exploring different occupations each week, both from home and, for our 'Key Worker Children', in school. We found out about the occupations and roles of various people who help us, with a common interest in finding out more about NHS and other 'Key Workers'. In the classroom, our role play areas became a veterinary practice, a hospital, a school, a library, a fire station and a post office! For the children at home and for those in school, books, both fiction and non-fiction, formed the staple diet for daily learning. The children had great fun getting into character, understanding the importance of each of the occupations and how they help people every day. This sparked a lot of curiosity to find out more about various occupations and, through the magic of the internet, we continued to be able to share experiences, discuss interests and share learning experiences.

Trinity 1& 2

Topic: Once Upon a Time

After having spent two full terms learning many letters and sounds, both through specific phonics lessons and many opportunities being carefully woven into the curriculum, accessed either at home or in school, delving into the wonderful world of Fairy Tales opened the horizons and possibilities for the imaginations of our young learners to explore. The children enjoyed being back together, learning in school, through play with peers. They were again able to all enjoy 'real experiences', using the resources we have in school and sharing ideas throughout the school day, in person, with peers. Our role play areas, both inside and out, were extremely popular and enabled the children to bring the various Traditional Tales to life, through role play. The children's imaginations were truly unleashed and the twists on the Traditional Tales were quite magical and the children were empowered by a real sense of awe and wonder. They took risks, were willing to have a go and persevered to draw on what they had learnt to create their own versions of a 'Once Upon a Time' story.

YEAR ONE

As part of our Farm topic in Michaelmas Year One had a special delivery of fertilised chicken eggs. The children carefully placed the eggs in an incubator, making sure the temperature was correct for the eggs to thrive. A couple of days later, excitement rose, as one of the eggs started to pip and a small crack appeared. In all 6 chicks arrived safely. Following this awe and wonder, the children cared for them and learnt about their life cycle. Once they were a couple of weeks old, they were rehomed on the school grounds by Mr Breese. The children were amazed when they visited the chicks who were no longer fluffy and yellow but fully grown egg laying chickens!

During Lent the children enjoyed taking part in our special themed days as part of our 'All Around the World' topic. We journeyed around the UK and learnt about the special traditions and associations related to a specific country. For England the children came dressed in red, white and blue, had a Royal Tea Party, learnt how to Morris Dance, and also danced around a Maypole! The children went on to learn Irish Dancing and enjoyed going on an Irish leprechaun hunt looking for gold. We had our very own Highland Games during which we skipped, leaped and 'wanged' wellies! Mr Hughes also visited Year One to teach the children about Wales and surprised them by speaking in Welsh especially when saying the name of a Welsh town which is very long.



In the Trinity term our topic was the 'Victorians'. The children made their own non-fiction books explaining what it was like to be a Victorian child, at home, at school and at work and to conclude our topic we had a fun day joining in lots of Victorian games, puppets shows, washing clothes the old-fashioned way and eating hockey pokies.

Turrets and Talons Medieval Day

Throughout our first term in Year Two we explored what life was like living in a castle and how and why they changed over time. We took this knowledge and created our own castle projects which we shared with our friends, developing our presenting skills too. We experienced castle life for ourselves during our 'Medieval Day', taking part in a medieval joust, enjoying an energetic medieval dance and tucking into a delicious medieval feast all dressed up as our favourite Medieval character.

Dragon Day

What a fiery Dragon Day it was! We came to school dressed in our favourite dragon colour and spent the morning creating a dragon head dress, in preparation for our Chinese Dragon performance.

We also enjoyed modelling clay dragons inspired by visiting artist, Kate Pullen.

Christmas Grange Week

Festivities continued right up to the end of term with an action packed 'Christmas Grange Week'. We took part in Christmas decoration making, snowman building competitions and even received a virtual hello and message from Father Christmas.

Remarkable Rainforests

Home Learning

We took the Rainforest into our homes during remote learning, creating artistic and colourful Rainforest projects in a shoebox. We then filmed ourselves presenting these projects to upload to showbie for our class to see.

During this topic, we explored the layers of the rainforest, its animals and plant life and their adaptations, as well as discussing deforestation and sustainability.

We designed a rainforest superhero and accompanying informative poster, highlighting the importance of saving the rainforest and the orangutans.

Rainforest Beats

After returning to school, we started again with a BANG! Experiencing a thrilling Rainforest themed drumming workshop from BeetFeet. Working on our rhythm and musical

creativity, we followed a journey through the Rainforest, listening to, creating and copying patterns of beats.

Tales of the Riverbank

The inspiration for this term's topic was 'The Wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Grahame, so having read the story and described its wonderful characters we went in search of Ratty, Toad, Mole and Badger. But where would we find them?

Using our wonderful local environment as a stimulus, we set off to explore the features of the River Severn first hand. We started our walk at Worcester Race Course, over Worcester Bridge, around the Diglis Basin, past the Cathedral and back to Gheluvelt Park. Walking a total of 11km, we observed river features, took photos of important landmarks and enjoyed a picnic lunch along the way.

Back in the classroom we explored the plight of the Twait Shad, discussing reasons for their decline in the River Severn and becoming engineers, building a fish pass to help save and preserve them.

We also created our own art masterpieces of Worcester Bridge in the style of Claude Monet and interpreted the work of local artist Antony Bridge to digitally paint the Malvern Hills.

To end the term we investigated the importance of rivers in the past with an inspirational workshop on the Great Fire of London led by David Cadle. He excited us all with his tales of London's past with an interactive, engaging and practical workshop. We investigated the spread of the fire using miniature villages, dressed up in period clothing, touched real artefacts and discussed what it would have been like to live through this terrible event.

The day came to a magnificent crescendo when we set fire to our Tudor houses, attempting to put out the fire using just a traditional water pump.

The term finished with a two day outdoor adventure experience at Boundless Outdoors, Malvern, wherein the children worked to develop their team building and collaboration skills building dens, navigating low ropes blind folded and encouraging each other when braving the heights of the king swing and climbing wall.



YEAR THREE

Year Three have had a jam-packed year both in and out of the classroom. We made the most of the windows of opportunity for educational trips to support our learning with a wonderful day trip to Bishops Wood Centre during the Michaelmas term and our three day residential trip to Mill on the Brue during the Trinity term. The children have embraced every opportunity available to them and relished the opportunity to take their learning outside in the wonderful grounds of RGS The Grange.

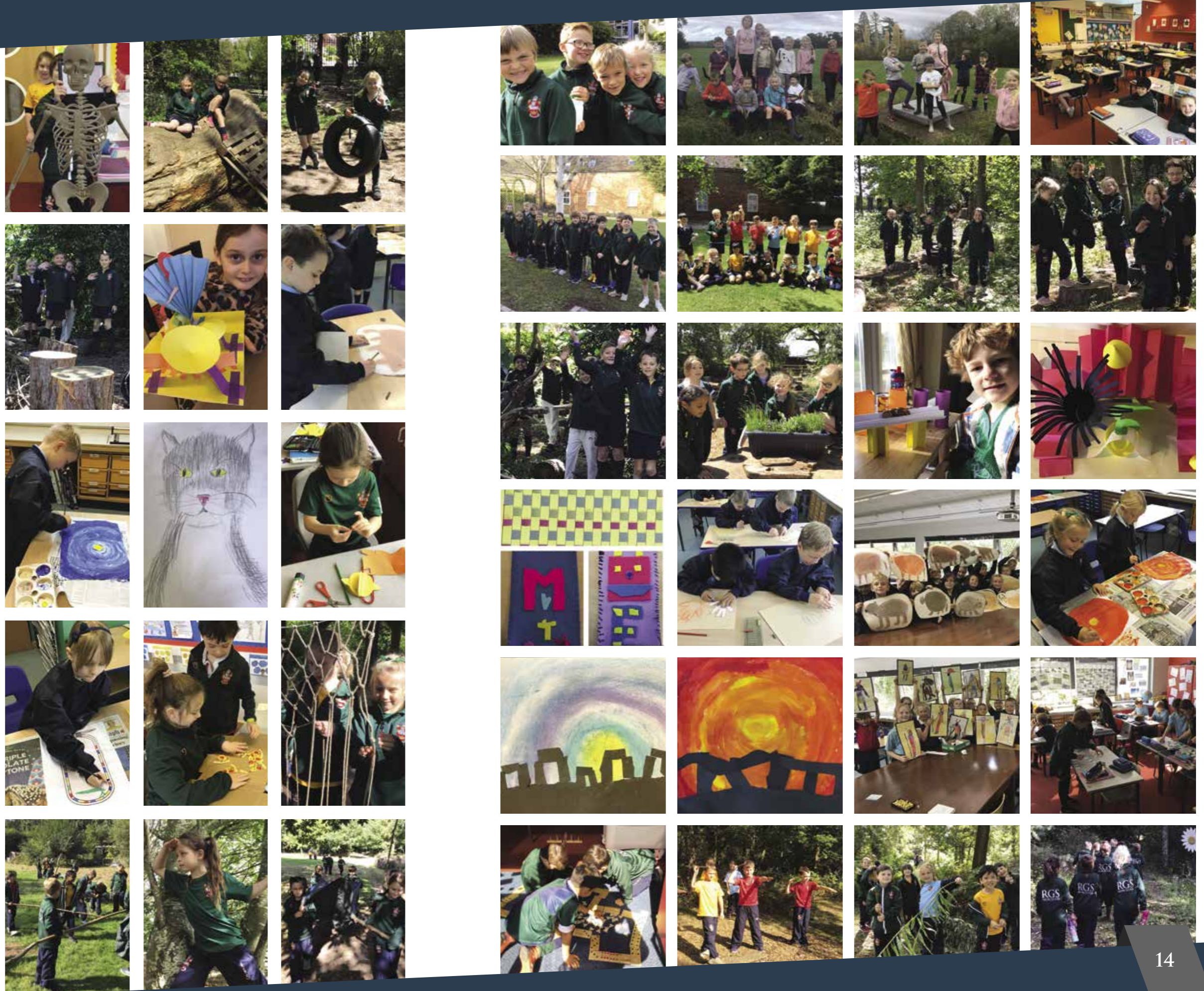
Year Three has been very creative. The Stone Age topic gave pupils the opportunity to draw massive mammoths for cave paintings and beautiful silhouettes of Stonehenge. They learnt to draw with proportion for Ancient Egyptian gods and goddesses. Pupils painted effectively with watercolours and acrylics to create seascapes. Whilst at home pupils followed our live lessons and our instructional videos to create brilliant bridges and marvellous marble runs and they learnt to sketch Mouser the cat and produced some amazing optical illusions.

Year Three Egyptian Day

A highlight of the Trinity term for Year Three was their Egyptian Day. After learning about Ancient Egypt all term, the children had great fun practising their Egyptian dance moves, making a musical instrument called sistrum and finally 'mummifying' their teddies. A wonderful day was had by children and staff alike.

Year Three English

In English, Year Three have loved the opportunity to explore texts linked to their topics. English has been delivered in a variety of ways including role-play, outdoor activities, collaboration and using Apple Clips, Garage Band and Puppet Pals to demonstrate understanding; not to mention the use of the Dough Disco to help improve handwriting. They loved entering the world of Stig of the Dump, during the Michaelmas term and wrote some fantastic descriptions with accompanying illustrations. The Lent term saw them delving into the underwater world of Flotsam and producing some wonderfully creative pieces of writing. During the Trinity term, the Egyptian Cinderella gave the opportunity to bring their topic work to life and the children relished the opportunity to compare different versions of a familiar tale.



YEAR FOUR

What a year! Despite the challenges we have all faced, it has been a wonderfully successful year. The children have enjoyed a highly productive and varied programme of academic, co-curricular and Enrichment activities both in school and remotely, and we commend them for all of their efforts. They have certainly all demonstrated 'The Grange Way' and our learning characteristics - resilience, collaboration, risk-taking, perseverance, initiative, empathy, creativity and curiosity. We hope you enjoy this summary of our wonderful year. Well done, Year Four 2020-21!

English

English lessons provide time for the children to not only develop the required skills but also opportunities to build confidence as well as developing the skills of speaking and listening, presenting and performing and also forming and justifying opinions. This year, we have explored a wide range of literature and have brought stories to life. The children loved our starting point of Greek Myths, which combined their English and History topics. Drama was used frequently throughout the year, enabling and encouraging children to engage with the different stories and their characters as well as providing opportunities for our budding actors and actresses. A favourite lesson from the year was exploring traditional tales, where the children collaborated in small groups to firstly sequence the story prompt pictures, then discuss the main events and finally showcase characterisation of the main characters. It has been an action packed curriculum in English this year, with the children developing their Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar skills, as well as reading fluency and comprehension and enhancing their writing styles. The children have relished the opportunity to develop these skills through a wide range of texts including stories from other cultures, picture books as well as learning how to recount a story, how to write an explanation text and much more. During Remote Learning, our school even went out to sea! What a brilliant year of English learning and fun!



Mathematical Minds

Year Four have had lots of fun in Mathematics this year. They have explored: number, place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, measurement, geometry, statistics and much more! With lots of children particularly enjoying the more challenging aspects of mathematics, which has deepened their understanding of the fundamentals. A favourite moment of the year was the opportunity to practice their problem-solving skills by completing a Mathematics treasure hunt. The children also completed many mathematical challenges in the sunshine and embraced the great outdoors whilst developing their mathematical skills. Here, they practised their team building and collaboration skills ready for Bushcraft. The outdoor maths fun continued throughout the year, which was an absolute delight to witness!

Super Scientists

Year Four learnt about many different aspects of Science, including: electricity, animals including humans, sound, living things and their habitats and states of matter. They really enjoyed investigating Solids, Liquids and Gases. They endeavoured to find out which was the fizziest soft drink – cola, lemonade or orangeade. First, by discovering that the “fizz” is made by adding carbon dioxide to drinks – a discovery first made by Joseph Priestly in the 18th Century. Over the year, the children enjoyed planning, predicting and carrying out many different experiments, each focusing on a different aspect of their scientific learning. From how to change states, to investigating the different factors which affect the rate of evaporation, the children enjoyed each investigation. A particular favourite was investigating how sound is created when objects or the air vibrate. The children loved exploring how to change the amplitude of the sound by making it louder or quieter and how to change the pitch of instruments. They even had fun making their own straw flutes!

Mindful Mondays

Do the days seem to be busier and busier? They certainly do at RGS The Grange, which is why in Year Four we have introduced our Mindful Mondays. A time that children and staff look forward to where we can just stop, and reflect on what is important. Over the year, we have used our weekly sessions to discuss changing emotions, complete group tasks and most importantly have the opportunity to come together, have some fun and listen to each other!

Dutch Inspired Art

Year Four studied the Dutch Artist, Piet Mondrian. They were inspired by his work with primary colours and produced their own interpretations of his paintings. Following the enhanced understanding of primary and secondary colours and upon mastering the art of colour mixing they created beautiful watercolour and pastel drawings of umbrellas. In History, we had a brilliant time learning about Roman baths and decided to compliment our learning by producing our own mosaics. It was a challenge to get them perfectly symmetrical and evenly spaced, but we loved the different processes we used to achieve our final pieces.

Drama Club

Year Four have been playing lots of fun games to practise emphasising body language and facial expressions. In Drama Club, our favourite was the Whoosh game, where we built up stories through freeze frame and mime. Even in the darkness after school, the Year Four Drama Club were still eager to perform their work to their socially distanced audience.

Christmas Grange Week

Year Four really enjoyed the range of Christmas themed activities during Christmas Grange Week. They learnt new skills and demonstrated their creativity through biscuit decoration, the House Snowman build and lots and lots of Christmas crafts!



Design and Technology

Design Technology in Year Four was jam-packed with exploration! The children were hands-on from the very start, investigating, testing and making. They enjoyed exploring levers and pneumatics and looking at how things work and then used their new found knowledge to create 'Moving Monsters' and wonderfully imaginative fairground rides!

Remote Learning - Humanities

Year Four showcased their creativity to make and present information packed videos on earthquakes. They started by researching four main questions: Why do earthquakes happen? Where do they happen? How do earthquakes affect people and their environment? How do people adapt to live in an earthquake zone? The Year Four teachers really enjoyed watching such a variety of videos and they were blown away with the impressive technology skills used by the children to create their work.

Remote Learning - English

Year Four thoroughly enjoyed reading, 'The School That Went To Sea.' The children worked hard to develop their writing skills and subsequently impressed with their enhanced understanding and application of fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases. Watch this space, will RGS The Grange be off on a journey?

The Year Four Bushcraft Adventure

Year Four had a wonderful time enjoying the great outdoors during their Bushcraft adventure. They took part in a variety of forestry based learning activities aimed towards outdoor adventure and survival in the wilds. Their adventures and explorations into the forest even included a simulation of a rescue operation when a light aircraft crashed into the woods! The children also played campfire games and undertook activities designed to encourage and develop our special RGS The Grange learning skills - curiosity, collaboration, initiative, perseverance, resilience, risk taking, empathy and creativity. A wonderfully exciting and adventurous expedition into the wilderness was enjoyed by all!

YEAR FIVE

Resilience, perseverance, creativity, collaboration, empathy, risk-taking, initiative and curiosity are RGS The Grange's learning characteristics. Year Five have displayed our key attributes in abundance during this challenging academic year which saw us teaching and learning both in school and via Remote Learning. We congratulate all of Year Five for working hard, showing us how engaged they were in their learning and how technologically skilled they were.

Each September, Year Five welcome many new children to continue their primary years in our wonderful school and they were soon welcomed into "The Grange Way", enjoying the many new experiences on offer.

English

Year Five celebrated World Book Day by dressing as their favourite characters in literature and even the teachers got involved by transforming into characters from our Lent text, The Highwayman. Children thoroughly enjoyed our new book 'The Nowhere Emporium' where they sprinkled their own magic in creating their own 'wonders' based on the book. Their abundance of creativity and curiosity was also shown in the numerous drama activities which followed Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night' later in the year.

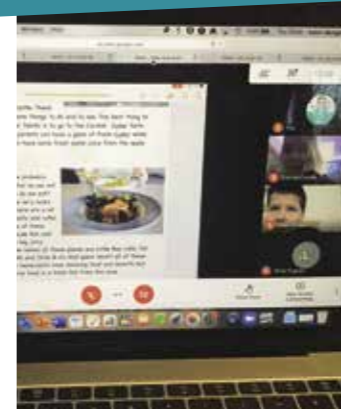
Humanities

Humanities lessons in Year Five took us back in time to the Viking era so we launched the topic by collaborating to create amazing Viking longships. The Ancient Maya were studied via our Remote Learning lessons and the pupils became archaeologists researching artefacts to produce creative digital presentations as well as designing some amazing menus. During the topic, Worcester through the Ages we used Digimaps to track back our city through time and the pupils found out about various famous factories past and present. This year we raised money for WaterAid after learning about the difficulties some people have acquiring fresh water.

Science

During our Year Five Science Day, I learnt loads of things from how to separate things like iron and sand from water to how to make cornflour slime. My favourite has to be the elephant's toothpaste and we learnt what an exothermic reaction was. It's when something releases heat. I had never heard about elephant's toothpaste and it was great fun. I have also learnt that an alloy is metals mixed together to create one metal. One alloy is named Field's metal found by Simon Quellen Field. To melt this alloy, you only have to heat it to above 62 degrees and you can form it into different shapes. I also found that to separate iron from salt and sand you can use a magnet, and to separate sand from salty water, you can use filtration. With the slime it was super fun. I found that if you stop playing or stretching it, all it would do is droop through your fingers, but in the end I got mine to work.





Remote Learning

Children showed a fantastic level of resilience during Remote Learning and enjoyed sharing what activities they were up to at home on Showbie. It was an exciting day when children returned to school and could finally catch up with their friends!

Art & DT

In Year Five Art lessons, pupils use their sketch books for a 'quick draw' to begin each lesson and to try out different media for their compositions. We use iPads to access the world's art galleries so that we can zoom into the masterpieces of Van Gogh, Kandinsky and Lowry. Each child is encouraged to make their own interpretations and have the freedom to access a range of art materials to create their pieces. We also enjoy visits from our professional potter who made wonderful bowls with us.

DT lessons were also very exciting in school and at home. The children loved the puppet, bread, engineering and robot projects and they created some amazing work which they showed us online or put to good use in puppet shows and robot wars.



Bushcraft

Year Five were fortunate to attend The Bushcraft Company residential this year. The children embraced nature and lived in the great outdoors for three days. During their time away, they took part in many exhilarating activities. Some included: den building, trap making and saving teachers from a dramatic plane crash!



Reading Buddies

One of the highlights of being a member of Year Six is the opportunity to work with other year groups lower down the school becoming mentors and role models for peers. Although constrained to year group bubbles this year, Year Six were able to overcome this barrier and use our Digital Learning Programme to virtually link with the Year Twos to become reading buddies. The Year Sixes chose a book to share with a partner in Year Two and, in turn, also listened to the Year Twos read their favourite story. The sessions also included a rich questions and answers session, discussing favourite authors and genres and predictions of endings and even inventing new characters and alternate endings to stories. The experience inspired all involved to share their love of reading and storytelling and Year Six thoroughly enjoyed their time with the younger pupils.



Science

Year Six conducted a wide range of practical Science experiments throughout the year. This included recreating natural selection of moths in their Evolution and Inheritance unit of work, using red cabbage juice to test the PH levels of different substances in their Kitchen Chemistry work and classifying sweets during Living Things and their Habitats.

Remote Learning - Love to Learn

Throughout the entirety of our period of Remote Learning, Year Six worked tirelessly to continue to complete work to incredibly high standards. In celebration of these incredible efforts, a true highlight of Remote Learning was our 'Love to Learn' day. During this day, Year Six completed a wealth of rich activities from across the curriculum, such as reading, baking, outdoor art, poetry and much more!

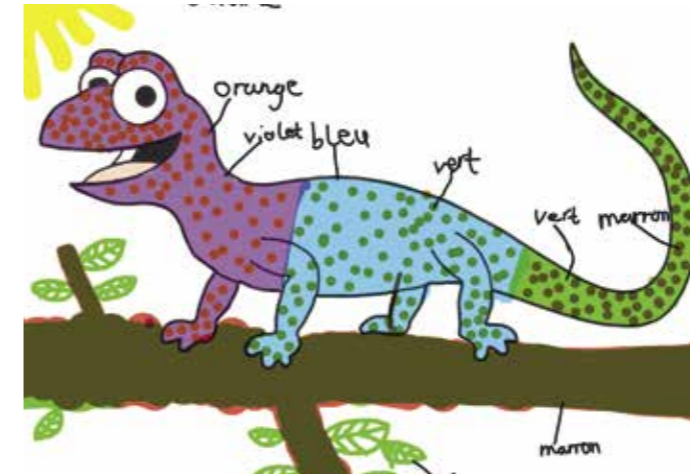


Bushcraft

Year Six enjoyed a wonderful expedition into the Northamptonshire countryside for their Bushcraft Residential trip. The children enjoyed an array of different activities and highlights included archery tag, shelter building and trap making. Year Six also learned lots of different survival skills during the trip and this included saving their teachers from a plane crash within the forest! The children loved helping make their meals on the campfire and there were plenty of campfire songs to end each meal.

FRENCH

What a pleasure it was to return to the classroom for the first term of the new academic year in 2020! There is nothing quite like the buzz of being in school and although the organisation of class and year group bubbles kept us all on our feet, it was a real tonic after the extended lockdown earlier in the year. Alas, the Lent term brought about another lockdown, but boy were we prepared for it! French lessons carried on as normal and it was absolutely amazing to see the motivation, commitment and creativity of the pupils. Broadcasting live lessons from inside the French classroom enhanced the experience for everyone and it was brilliant to see so many parents getting involved as well. The creation of the YouTube channel "Learn French at Home with Madame Cantin" was a lot of fun and meant that pupils could access French any time, any place.



One of my personal highlights from the year has to be the French Christmas hymn "Ange dans le Ciel", that was performed by all pupils in Key Stage 2. When I was writing the words to that song, I had no idea how magical the experience was about to come. Mrs Keetley-Smith's musical arrangement was outstanding and performing it at dusk in the school grounds, each pupil holding a candle, is something that I will never forget. It was a very special moment and the words "le monde est sauvé" were, and continue to be, so poignant.

COMPUTING & IT

Reflecting upon the previous academic year left me feeling incredibly proud of everything that RGS The Grange achieved in allowing education to not only continue, but to thrive. Saying that, nothing could quite replace the feeling of being back in the classroom with the pupils.

We started the academic year by launching 'Sphero Sports' in Year Three to Year Six. RGS The Grange was proud to be the first academic establishment in the world to be working with Sphero developing coding skills through this project, inspiring risk-taking, computational thinking and collaboration. It is fair to say that this was an incredibly popular tool to facilitate curriculum development as sport was the hook and the coding was the outcome for success.

In November RGS The Grange entered the National BEBRAS Coding challenge and did remarkably well outscoring pupils from across the country with Year Three - Year Six gaining marks well above the national average in a range of computational skills.

Remote Teaching was back in January and with a full timetable of lessons, learning continued albeit remotely. Pupils took part in a huge range of activities from app-design to learning about Internet Safety and phishing scams continuing to build their confidence and understanding of using technology.



Our 2020-2021 year in music was all about finding new approaches to performing and creating music in more challenging times and enabled us to develop exciting, innovative experiences for the children, most of which were either outside or online.

Ensembles and Online Concerts

In September we were pleased to have some music ensembles back up and running and there were year group bubble choirs for Years Three to Six, along with Year Five String Group, Year Six Instrumental Ensemble and Guitar Group. We were pleased to hear music resounding throughout the school once more.

Our Online Concerts continued to provide regular performance opportunities for our young musicians and enabled friends and family to share in the children's progress. Harvest Festival, Christmas and Mother's Day were all celebrated with online recordings with all ages having the opportunity to sing and perform.

A number of our musicians also successfully took part in the online Worcester Competitive Arts Festival, with awards being made for Stings, Woodwind, Harp and Voice.

Christmas Celebrations

In an imposed break from our traditional Carol Service at Worcester Cathedral, our aim was to provide a magical and memorable platform for the children to celebrate Christmas and it certainly proved to be a highlight of the year. Early Years through to Year Two gave an outside performance of 'A Very Special Baby' in Forest School and it really felt as if Christmas had arrived at RGS The Grange.

Years Three to Six also videoed their Christmas Celebration outside and a particular highlight was a drone recording of everyone singing 'Anges Dans Le Ciel' on the driveway of school. The music was especially written by Madame Cantin and Mrs Keetley-Smith to combine both French and Music in a simplistic yet beautiful form, embracing everyone and providing a truly unique experience. This piece was later published by Lindsay Publications, so that other schools and choirs could go on to share in this music.

Virtual Collaborations

We continue to enjoy and benefit from our links to the music departments within the RGS family of schools. As such our young flautists took part in a superb virtual flute choir rendition of 'Tallis Canon' and all our of our Year Five and Six children enjoyed learning and performing 'Ode to Joy' by Beethoven. We fitted our curriculum lockdown lessons around Beethoven.



ABRSM Exams

A welcome return to 'live' ABRSM music exams took place in both the Michaelmas and Trinity terms, with two full days of exams taking place in July. We continue to be proud of a hundred percent pass rate and strong results in a range of instruments and voice.

DRAMA

Despite Covid, Drama has gone from strength to strength at RGS The Grange this year and has become an integral part of staff and pupils teaching and learning. Role-play is now embedded into the curriculum as a way to develop pupils' understanding and the number of Drama clubs that children have taken part in this year has greatly increased.

During the Michaelmas Term, the whole school enjoyed a Harvest Samba as a way of celebrating the Harvest Festival and taking the opportunity to perform as a whole school in a safe and managed environment.



Christmas brought the opportunity for celebrations from Pre-school up to Year Two and our beautiful Forest School was the setting for some magical performances. Parents were unable to attend in person, due to restrictions, but the children's performances were captured in two wonderful films.

During the Trinity Term, Year Six, who had weathered quite a storm over the past eighteen months, performed William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Mrs Hobson, Head of Drama, made use of our fantastic grounds to ensure that parents could come and share the Year Six pupils' final performance at RGS The Grange. Over two incredible evenings, the pupils produced a magical version of *The Tempest*. The open air performance was a first for the school, but the location of the 'stage' and the positioning of the school minibuses created a natural amphitheatre, with breathtaking results.



Curriculum PE

Once again Remote learning saw PE at RGS The Grange take an exciting approach to Teaching and Learning, keeping pupils engaged in physical activity and encouraging them to stay active during lockdown. Each week pupils in Years 3-6 had live lessons through google meet for both their PE and Games lessons. PE lessons focused on the different components of fitness including aerobic exercise, speed, agility, flexibility, balance, strength, endurance as well as coordination which saw pupils set the challenge of learning how to juggle. Alongside this saw the introduction of basic exercise physiology through the use of augmented reality. This provided a platform to increase pupils' knowledge about the amazing human body and the effects that exercise has on the different systems. Games lessons saw a mix up of aerobic, speed and agility exercises, sport specific skills practice in Football, Netball and Hockey with some Zumba dance thrown in as well!

Year One and Two were also very busy keeping themselves active during remote learning. Monday afternoons saw live PE lessons led by Mrs Warne and Miss Willis which included lessons on dance, yoga, movement and agility skills. Alongside the live lessons they took on Seven fundamental skill challenges set each Friday afternoon, focusing on trying to develop and improve the skills of running, jumping, throwing and catching.

On returning to school pupils in Years 3-6 embraced the opportunity to reconnect with each other as well as developing their communication, teamwork and leadership skills through outdoor learning lessons within our Forest School site. They took part in activities including the stick tower challenge, making bug hotels and broomsticks and learning new skills of knot tying and square lashings to help them create dens and structures. These different skilled tasks got them working together, connecting with each other and challenging their creative, thinking and physical skills.

Games and Fixtures

There is no denying that September provided the PE and Games department with an opportunity to experiment with our games afternoons being restricted to our beautiful bubbles. We arrived back to school and started playing cricket, which the children had previously missed out in the summer term. Despite the continued cleaning down of equipment, the weather played its part and the children and staff enjoyed a lovely five weeks of glorious cricket.

As the weather changed around October, cricket made way for hockey and football with boys and girls playing both sports during the term and making it clear that they loved both games. Sadly we remained limited to playing only in house matches and despite the continued enthusiasm it did feel like something was missing. Before we knew it, the Lent term had been and gone.... oh yes, that was the one at home! It was long forgotten though because the Trinity term was upon us, the sounds of leather on willow was back in the air as was the not so faint chatter of the parents on the boundary. Not only was it wonderful to get the children back playing some sport against their peers from other local schools, but equally importantly it was amazing to have real parents in, watching their children playing some sport. It felt like a long time and really did provide the children, staff and parents with a sense of normality that we were clearly all in need of.

2020 - 2021 may not have been the most high octane of years on the sports pitches, but my goodness was sport needed, playing such an important role in getting the children outside and having fun with their friends.



HOUSE

House Events

The House Competition 2020 - 2021 was obviously like no other we had had before. Once we had taken into account the mitigating risks we had put in place for certain activities, it became apparent that we were going to have to think slightly more laterally about how best to make it work. Luckily there was no lack of enthusiasm from the children and therefore it was with gusto that we began with "House Capture the Flag". This new competition was a real crowd pleaser and children across the whole school were always begging for another game! Our tweet from Mr Jason Robinson himself agreed with us.....it looked like a lot of fun!

Michaelmas saw the House Build, House Run, House Sport and then finally Star Search deliver some great events with house points a plenty being collected.

Little did we know that Lent Term was going to deliver a slightly different "Remote" House competition. Despite the obvious disappointment of not being able to compete face to face, the RGS The Grange community were fantastic with ideas for new events and getting involved with them. House Art, House Code Off, House Egg and House Dance were just a few of those that made us smile the most at school.

It was the most difficult of decisions to run sports day without our usual fantastic spectators, but the children really were outstanding in creating the noise and atmosphere we are used to on a sports day. After a very close fought competition, Perowne were crowned deserved winners. After all house points had been collected and counted it was refreshing that Perowne managed to win the overall competition, just pipping the "Green Army" by a few points.

Perowne 18296

Cash 17490

Goodrich 13530

Cornwall 11646



Charities, Fundraising and Community Services

This year we have had another successful, albeit different year of charitable and fund-raising activities. Despite not being able to run many of our traditional events such as our popular cake sales, we still were very keen that all our children understand the immense benefits of helping those in need and who are less fortunate than themselves in their local community as well as in the wider world. Your generous and tireless support of all our events has been very much appreciated.

Our first event was our Harvest Festival and parents had the opportunity to watch Year Groups' Harvest celebrations ranging from a "Dingle, Dangle Scarecrow" performance from our Nursery/Pre-School children through to a performance of 'Pictures of Fall' in two-part harmony by Year Six. It was a thought-provoking celebration to remind us how grateful we should be for all the food grown on the land as well as remembering those across the world, including our own community, where people are going hungry. Worcester Foodbank were in receipt of over £750 as well as 2 minibuses laden with harvest food. Thank you for your generosity.

This year we have focused on one of our 'Buzz Words' more than ever, that of Empathy. This has been particularly relevant during these current times, and it is essential that we all have the ability to put ourselves "in someone else's shoes" so that we can understand other people's situations and feelings from their point of view. During our Remembrance Service in November, children and staff took time to remember those who died in the line of duty, and acquired a better understanding of what sacrifices and pain many people suffered as a result of wars across the whole world, not just the UK. The children, throughout the school involved themselves in the creation of remembrance stones and poppies - LEST WE FORGET



Also in November, we joined with Pudsey Bear and celebrated 'Children in Need', ringing in the changes with a virtual balloon race instead of our usual cake sale. The children had fun and enjoyed fundraising by racing their balloons and watching them fly! The children also completed the day by looking bright and colourful in their spotty clothing and a fantastic, 'spotacular' £1700 was raised to go towards helping disadvantaged children and young people in the UK. Thank you for your support.

Another colourful day in the charities calendar is our favourite end of term Christmas Jumper Day. Our children and staff supported the day with jumpers decorated with baubles, Santa, reindeers and Christmas trees raising the sum of £300 for 'Save The Children'.

This year we have also used curriculum topics to inspire our children to think about global challenges and how they can make a difference. Following the study of the water cycle, Year Five raised £500 for Water Aid UK to help bring clean water to some of the toughest places in the world, enabling communities to change their lives for the better.

March brought Red Nose Day and we had a truly wonderful day seeing all the children and staff dress up as Superheroes in support of Comic Relief. We very much enjoyed celebrating what makes us all "Superheroes". Mr Hughes, dressed as Superman, showed off his superhuman abilities of incredible strength. But the real heroes of the day were the children who dressed as our National Health Workers. These Key Workers have worked tirelessly for the last twelve months and we continue to thank and salute them all. The day also allowed us to reflect on the extraordinary and unpredictable nature of the year and to appreciate how the power and benefits of laughter and smiling can really connect us and make a huge difference to our personal wellbeing. Thank you for supporting your children get into the spirit of the day and have lots of fun along the way. Alongside the laughter, we successfully raised £500 for this important charity which strives to end child poverty by funding programmes that keep children safe, healthy, educated and empowered.



YEAR SIX LEAVERS

Despite another interrupted year, Year Six pupils enjoyed another very successful year. They worked tirelessly up until the end of the year and enjoyed their Leavers Week immensely. This included a wide range of activities to help celebrate the children's time at RGS The Grange.

The celebrations culminated in a wonderful Leavers' Assembly, in which each form tutor and members of the Senior Leadership Team gave speeches to commemorate the children's time at RGS The Grange, some of whom had been with us since Pre-School. Year Six also performed a song to say thank you for the support of their parents while they have been at RGS The Grange. This included some wonderful plastic tub drumming.

Congratulations once again to the 2021 Leavers, we look forward to sharing your future successes with you.



YEAR 6 LEAVERS 2021

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alexia Agoston | Joshua Lloyd |
| Joseph Agoston | Scarlett Marsh |
| Sufyan Al-Jaro | Lily Morton |
| Eloise Austin-Ginger | Chloe Nicol |
| Claudia Barker | Finn O'Connell |
| Ridhima Canchi | Anya Peddareddy |
| Oliver Charles | Lucas Pullen |
| Beatrice Collins | Alfie Ross |
| Archie Davey | Finnley Siembab |
| Phoebe Dawson | Elliott Simpson |
| Hana Duncan | Lilianna Sprigg |
| Barney Dunnett | Freddie Staiano |
| Erin Fisher | Sebastian Stockford Parsons |
| Oliver Flanagan | Charlie Taylor |
| Harrison Fox | Harry Thoday |
| Pru Goodison | Freya Thompson |
| Monty Green | Brandon Titley |
| Mathilda Haldane | Georgia Tucker |
| Audrey Hargreaves | Lucas Turner-Payne |
| Ciaran Hession-Wilson | Dylan Walsh |
| Peter Jackson | Henry Webber |
| Henry Jarvis | Cleo Whitbread |
| James Keetley-Smith | Oliver Wyatt-Wright |
| Florence Kelly | |



RGS Governors List 2020 - 2021

Chairman: Mr Q Poole | Vice Chair: Mrs R Ham

Mrs S Mills	Mr J Peters	Mrs R Wyatt
Mr N Fairlie	Mr B Radford	Mrs K Wormington
Mr H Kimberley	Dr E Robinson	
Ms K Meredith	Mrs J Cross	
Mrs L Cook	Mr A Greenway	

RGS STAFF LIST 2020-21

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Gareth Hughes	Headmaster
Wendy Wreghitt	Deputy Head
David Bousfield	Assistant Head – Co-Curricular, Director of Sport
Vanessa Kay	Business Manager
Maz Egginton	Head of Pre-Prep
Richard Millard	Director of Studies

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Tom McCallion	Head of Years 5 & 6, Head of Maths
Matt Warne	Head of Computing and IT
Katie Bradley	Head of Years 3 & 4, Head of PSHE
Alex Bond	Pre-School & Nursery Leader
Michelle Dix	Co-ordinator of Learning Development

ACADEMIC STAFF

Abigail Andrews	Reception Teacher
Sara Beecham	Year 5 Teacher
Catherine Cantin	Head of French
Harriet Carvill	Year 5 Teacher
Phenice Fletcher	Year 1 Teacher
Nicola Evans	Year 2 Teacher, Head of KS1 Art
Emma Hadley	Year 5 Teacher, Head of RS, Head of KS2 Art
Sam Harper	Year 2 Teacher
Nina Hobson	Year 3 Teacher, Head of Drama
Liz Keetley Smith	Head of Music
Adam Morgan	Year 4 Teacher
Rebecca Parker	Year 6 Teacher
Anna Pitt	Head of DT (part time)
Libby Timmis	Reception Teacher
Tracey Turner	Year 4 Teacher, Head of Library
Penny Anne Vaughan	Year 4 Teacher
Joanna van Zeller	Year 3 Teacher
Lorna Walsh	Year 3 Teacher
Lis Warne	Head of PE
Laura Willis	Year 6 Teacher, Head of Girls' Games

EDUCATIONAL & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Michelle Baldwin	Head's PA/School Administrator
Keith Breese	Site Supervisor
Amanda Potter	Receptionist/Admin Assistant
Tahira Fatima Ali	Receptionist/Admin Assistant
Lisa Horton Samuel	Co-Curricular Admin Assistant
Sarah Walter	Registrar

NURSERY & PRE-SCHOOL

Victoria Betts	Early Years Assistant
Meg Bow	Early Years Practitioner
Rhiannon Cole	Early Years & Forest School Leader
Sarah Franklin	Early Years Practitioner
Erin Gwilliam	Early Years Practitioner
Anne Hasnat	Early Years Assistant
Jo Bentley	Early Years Room Leader
Eloisa Riefoli	Early Years Practitioner
Natasha Stentiford	Early Years Practitioner
Natalie Wood	Early Years Room Leader
Charlotte Harriott	Early Years Room Leader
Claire Green	Early Years Practitioner
Emily Meech	Early Years Apprentice

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Lisa Beardmore	Prep Teaching Assistant
Kathy Connah	Prep Teaching Assistant
Lauren Fielding	Reception Teaching Assistant
Lisa Holland	Prep Teaching Assistant
Claire Lane	Prep Teaching Assistant
Karin Llewellyn	Prep Teaching Assistant
Angie Lymer	Pre-Prep Teaching Assistant
Rebecca Pearman	Reception Teaching Assistant
Ivory Rose	Pre-Prep Teaching Assistant
Theresa Smith	Prep Teaching Assistant
Sarah Thompson	Pre-Prep Teaching Assistant
Isabelle Newall	Sports Gap Assistant

NURSES

Alison Odam	School Nurse (part time)
Phoebe Brighton	School Nurse (part time)

AFTER SCHOOL CARE/HOLIDAY CLUB

David Humphreys	After School Care & Holiday Club Manager
Katie Walker	After School Care & Holiday Club Deputy
Larissa Barbu	After School Care Assistant
Adewale Oladipupo	After School Care Assistant
Valbona Lezo	Senior After School Care Assistant
Sue Perry	Senior After School Care Assistant
Clare Mullins	After School Care Assistant
Jennifer Lynch	After School Care Assistant
Alex Owen	After School Care Assistant

NEW STARTERS

Jo Bentley

We welcome Jo Bentley as an Early Years Practitioner into our Pre-School & Nursery Department. Jo holds a teaching degree but working with the youngest children is where her passion lies. Jo is also a member of the Worcester Athletics Club and supports with coaching for athletic events.

Phoebe Brighton

Previously a staff nurse at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, Phoebe Brighton joins our school nurse team, working at the start of the week, Monday to Wednesday. Phoebe is looking forward to supporting the pastoral care at RGS The Grange and improving her work/life balance!



Harriet Carvill

With a previous life working in sales in London, Harriet Carvill qualified as a teacher with The Rivers Teaching Alliance in the summer of 2020 and joins us as a newly qualified teacher. She joins the Year 5 team and with a degree in English Literature, hopes to inspire and motivate the children's imagination.



Jennifer Lynch

An ex-RGS pupil, Jennifer Lynch becomes a member of our After School Care team. Married with a young family, Jen is looking forward to bringing her experience to help with our Pre-Prep children at the end of the day.



Joanna van Zeller

A graduate of Nottingham University with a degree in American Studies, we welcome Joanna in her first teaching post after gaining her PGCE. Joanna has a keen interest in musical theatre and has even been known to do stand up comedy, she hopes to bring her varied skills to the children in her Year 3 class and make a positive difference to their lives.



Penny-Anne Vaughan

Penny-Anne Vaughan joins the Year 4 team from The Croft Preparatory School near Stratford upon Avon. Now in her second year of teaching, Penny is looking forward to consolidating her skills to maintain a positive and proactive learning environment. She is looking forward to contributing to the co-curricular programme and supporting with sport.



Tahira Fatima Ali

Tahira joined us in April as a School Administrator working in the mornings in the School Office until 2.00pm. She is rapidly getting to know all the faces of the children in school and will often be the first point of contact for any enquiries.



LEAVERS

Laura Willis

Laura Willis has been a part of the furniture at RGS The Grange since she joined as an NQT in January 2010. She has taught children in both Pre-Prep and Prep during her 11 years but is probably most remembered as a Year 6 teacher. We could always rely on Laura to organise, whether that be managing the Star Search competition or arranging the girls' sports fixtures, Laura will be there with her list! A passionate teacher who always engaged her pupils, Laura is now looking forward to a life-change as she embarks on life on the farm with her partner, Tony. We do, however, hope that Miss Willis will be returning occasionally as a supply teacher over the coming years. Goodbye Miss Willis, we will miss you!



Michelle Dix

Mrs Dix has supported many children at RGS The Grange with their Learning Development since she joined us from RGS Springfield in 2015. Michelle has worked with children across all year groups and has been a great advocate of setting up different individual groups to assist the children with both their learning and confidence. Michelle is looking forward to a new opportunity working with children in the community.



Nina Hobson

Our loss is RGS Dodderhill's gain! We said goodbye to Mrs Hobson after nearly 6 years of teaching at RGS The Grange across both Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. We will always remember the marvellous productions that Mrs Hobson directed and her enthusiasm and passion for Star Search was unbounded. We wish Nina all the best in her new role as Head of Key Stage One and Two at RGS Dodderhill, do keep in touch.



Lisa Beardmore

We will miss Mrs Beardmore who has been a Teaching Assistant at RGS The Grange since she joined on a voluntary basis in 2012. Lisa has seen both her sons pass through both RGS The Grange and RGS Worcester and has worked tirelessly supporting children in our Prep Department. Lisa loves running and can often be seen pounding the streets early in the morning! She now begins a new chapter focusing more on family life.



Kathy Connah

Another long standing member of the Teaching Assistant team, Kathy Connah leaves us to also spend more time with her family as her husband has retired. Kathy joined us from Welland Primary School and has helped with forest school and helped to lead in our Flourish and Fly programme. Good luck in your new life, Mrs Connah!



Ivory Rose

Mrs Rose joined RGS The Grange in 2010. As a qualified teacher, Ivory was often called upon to act as supply teacher in Pre-Prep and did a lot of work with Years 1 and 2. Ivory leaves to take up a new post at Bowbrook House School. Good luck in new job, our loss is their gain!



Theresa Smith

Mrs Smith came to RGS The Grange in September 2009 as a Teaching Assistant and has worked in virtually all year groups since then. Theresa was always on hand to help out if required and latterly was a key member of the Year 3 and 4 team. She leaves to take a new position in a different field.



Angie Lymer

What can we say about Mrs Lymer? One of the longest serving members of staff, she joined RGS The Grange in 2003 as a Nursery Assistant and since then has worked in Early Years, Reception and Years 1 and 2. All the children love Mrs Lymer and everyone one remembers something that Angie has helped or supported with, she leaves a big hole in hearts. Angie is now looking forward to a well earned retirement to spend time with her family and grandchildren but will undoubtedly return to school to see our Christmas Celebrations, something she loved being part of. Take time to relax and enjoy your time at home Angie!



Sue Perry

Sue Perry was senior Assistant in our After School Care team and leaves to transfer to a similar role at RGS Springfield as it is nearer to her home in Worcester.



Rhiannon Cole

We said goodbye to Rhiannon Cole who had been a member of the Early Years team since 2014. Mrs Cole decided not to return from maternity leave following birth of her second son and we wish her well for the future.

Alex Owen

Being an After School Care Assistant is just one of the roles that Alex Owen has undertaken within the RGS family this year. Having just finished his A Levels with excellent grades, he took a year out before going to Durham University in September. Quietly spoken but with a big presence (Alex is well over 6' tall!), he will be returning in the school holidays to support in Holiday Club.



