



Nether Hall School

## Head Teacher's News – December 2020

When I wrote to you in July I really didn't think we would still be in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic in December. However, here we are. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their professionalism and commitment in keeping the school safe and enabling pupils to continue to learn both at school and at home. I would also like to thank you for working with us through this very difficult time, for being understanding and supportive when your child has needed to self-isolate and for helping with home learning.

Despite the challenges, there has been a huge amount of wonderful learning going on in school. Do enjoy hearing about some of this throughout this newsletter.

### Staffing Update

A big Nether Hall welcome to teachers Victoria and Lauren who joined the team in September. Also, to our new teaching assistants; Jamie, Jennifer, Julie, Farzana and our new mid-day staff; Pam, Sadie, Krupa and Lucy welcome aboard. Finally, a big welcome back to Millie who is now a Mum.

At the end of the week we will be saying goodbye to Zubair, our fabulous IT technician. Zubair is off to use his IT skills in the world of business. We send him with our very best wishes and thanks for his hard work and commitment over the past 9-years. We will miss you. We also say a temporary farewell to Melissa who is about to become a first time Mum! Our very best wishes to you Melissa at a very exciting time.



Congratulations to teacher, Jane Hutton, who was awarded the Biodiversity Champion title at the Sustainable Schools Celebration in October. Jane leads our work on outdoor learning including the development of the field into our very own forest. Very well-deserved recognition for a lot of hard work.



### Outdoor Learning

One good thing about this term is that Government advice states Fresh Air is GOOD and we have all been taking advantage of this and using our Outdoor Learning field to the max.

The space is so open and remarkably dry under foot even after the rain, so our young people often just enjoy exploring and enjoying being outside of the classroom.



The really exciting news is that we now have TWO willow domes on the field which currently look like this (left) but in spring and summer will hopefully look like this (right). We are aware of how anxious young people can be, particularly at the current time and plan for these to be areas where pupils people can relax and unwind.



Right across the school, pupils have really enjoyed being back and seeing their friends and the staff again. We have been doing lots of sharing and being really kind to one another. We have also been learning lots of new things and practicing our independence skills.

## Primary



Time with friends



Helping a friend



Taking turns



Having fun with water

## Secondary



Children in Need Day



Being creative



Having fun



Learning about 'me'

## Sixth Form



Delicious cooking



Taking care of things



Diwali decorations



Experimenting

## Dates for your diary:

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 - School closes for Christmas  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Staff Training Day  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – School opens to pupils



Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe and healthy festive season. I sincerely hope you have the opportunity to enjoy time with your family and friends, either in person or virtually! Let's hope 2021 is healthy, happy and more normal for us all.

Sarah Naylor  
Head Teacher