



# East Sheen Primary School

## Headship Headlines October 2020

### New School Year

Welcome to the first edition of Headship Headlines this year. We are so happy to have our children back in school!

The new Reception children have settled very quickly and it is wonderful to see how much they are enjoying being in school. They have picked up the routines well and are busy and engaged in a wide range of activities. We extend a warm welcome to all our new families and look forward to working together with you and getting to know you.

We pride ourselves on our great sense of community and are acutely aware of how challenging it is to promote this at a time when we cannot invite parents into school or hold community events. We have ensured that children continue to take part in whole school assemblies and see each other on screen, which they seem to enjoy a lot! We have announced and met virtually our new school house captains and sports captains, have presented the helping hands cup and attendance stars as well as awarding individual certificates. There is an enjoyable new school experience: we hear applause rippling around the school as children sit and join in with the virtual assembly! Sadly, we are not singing yet, as we can only do this quietly, spaced out in small groups. We look forward to a time when we can all join together and sing our hearts out!

It was also wonderful that the whole school was able to participate in the London Mini-Marathon. The children enjoyed improving their fitness, dressing in pink and wearing unicorn horns and cheering each other on during the whole school relay. Thank you for your generous support, both in making sure the children took part and in your donations!



**Y6 Unicorn**



**Reception reading**

Governors have also continued to meet virtually and school priorities for this academic year have been agreed. As always, the main focus is on ensuring the high quality of teaching and learning so that children make as much progress as possible. There is an added focus this year on identifying any gaps resulting from school closure and ensuring these learning needs are addressed, through adapting the curriculum and running targeted intervention programmes. Children can expect to enjoy the full curriculum-we will not be cutting any curriculum areas-and will continue to learn using Thinking School strategies.



**Reception riding bikes**

The PTA committee has also been working away, coming up with creative ideas to support the work of the school and bring families together. The money raised to buy iPads has been greatly appreciated as our ICT suite has been turned back into a classroom. Teaching of computing is therefore now taking place in classrooms with the children using iPads.



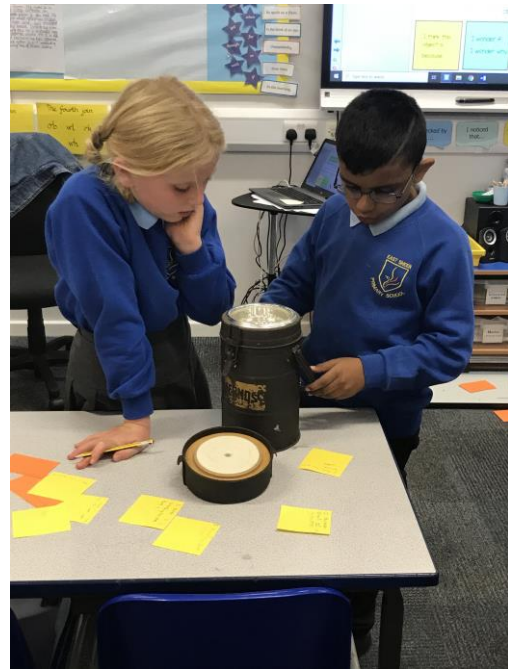
Reception writing

### Contingency Plans

Of course we all hope we will not need to send “bubbles” of children home, but in case we do we have made comprehensive contingency plans as to how we will continue to support the children’s learning and wellbeing at home. These are published in the Remote Learning area of our website. We have also updated the curriculum and year-group pages on our website and there is lots of information on how we support children’s mental health in school and keep them safe, both in the physical world and online.



Y6 learn about Somalia as we celebrate Black History



Y4 enjoying history and science



### Keeping your child safe online

There are links to useful sites for parents with information on online safety on our website and on the contingency plans. It really is very important that appropriate controls are in place, that age restrictions are followed and that parents have open discussions with their children about their online life. During school closure some of our older children used social media to keep in touch with each other. Whilst we all know this is extremely important and a good way of staying connected, we have become aware of children setting alarms in the middle of the night to hold pre-arranged chat time with friends. We advise that children use devices under supervision and that they do not take them to bed with them at night.