



Hemsby Primary School

School Loke | Hemsby | Great Yarmouth | Norfolk | NR29 4LH

Tel: 01493 730364 | Fax: 01493 732850 | e.mail: office@hemsby.norfolk.sch.uk

www.hemsby.norfolk.sch.uk



I took over as headteacher at Hemsby Primary School on 24th February 2021, three weeks before Boris Johnson's announcement of the first national lockdown. It has certainly been a challenging year. The school has continued to remain open throughout, with key worker and vulnerable children attending during the lockdowns. We have provided free school meals to eligible families by initially delivering packed lunches and then through the Edenred voucher scheme.

We began teaching using a rota system during the first lockdown and then opened more widely to Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Six in line with Government guidelines from 1st June. We were able to offer all year groups the opportunity for some transition into their next class during the last two weeks in July. The Autumn Term was relatively 'normal' with all children back in school full time. Then we were back to remote learning for the majority of children during the Spring Term, with keyworker and vulnerable children being taught in school.

Teachers have had to rapidly improve their IT skills by finding new and creative ways to provide online remote learning for children. Assemblies, staff meetings and staff training has taken place using Zoom and Microsoft Teams, it has been quite a learning curve for us all. We have completed and updated countless risk assessments and purchased large amounts of PPE, paper towels, soap and hand sanitiser.

Despite the virus we have been able to continue with some of our school priorities. We purchased a whole school Maths scheme and have joined a Maths hub to develop and improve the teaching of Maths throughout the school. We are on a four year journey to develop and embed Maths Mastery in school. The hard work and dedication of all staff during these unprecedented times has been amazing.

We have started to improve resourcing in the school and purchased two new interactive classroom whiteboards in Summer 2020 and we are currently updating office PCs. We have purchased manipulatives (practical Maths equipment) for all year groups to go alongside the Maths scheme and we are developing our Special Educational Needs resources.

The school is in need of redecoration and refurbishment. We have used some capital money to replace four of the original Victorian windows which were in a very poor state of repair. The rest of the external windows will be painted in the summer holiday.

Going forwards we would like to improve the quality of teaching resources in the school, including reading and library books and improve the quality of the school environment, both inside and out.

We have a falling roll at school which has negatively impacted our school budget. There are currently spaces in all year groups and are keen to promote the school to attract more pupils. We have renamed the School Nursery, it was previously known as Little Stars but is now Hemsby Nursery, hopefully this small change will better link the nursery to the school and the village.

We are proud to be part of the Hemsby community and as things start to return to normal, we are keen to get involved in local events again.

Sian Harmer
Headteacher

