

FLORA NEWS



Head's Blog

"How dare you?"

A phrase that is usually used towards children whose behaviour requires correction.

"How dare you think that you can damage property that is shared by 200 children in our school?"

Right now, it's not pupils who face my wrath, though. It's Mr Williamson, the education secretary. Worth noting that his preparation for this job was selling fire places - I hope he was better at that than he is at supporting the teaching profession.

Education secretary Gavin Williamson chose to criticise teachers last week for not doing enough in the early stages of lockdown to help children learning at home. How dare he?

How dare he make that claim when schools repeatedly called for support for families struggling to feed their children, and his department [had to be bullied into providing free school meals vouchers](#)?

How dare he criticise schools for not providing work when so many did, despite the clear messages from government that parents would be supported by a national approach instead? How dare he overlook the fact that, for many families, no amount of online work would have been accessible, and that the government's much-trumpeted laptop giveaway very quickly became a farce of its own? At Flora we asked for over 100 laptops and received 10!

Every school in the country is working with the logistics of keeping hundreds of children safely apart and supervised, requiring additional lunchtime staff, extra cleaning hours and, in many cases, additional resources to be shared safely across schools. How dare he imply that schools are not doing enough, when every single member of staff is doing their best to make up for the government's shortcomings?

Talk of remote learning is all well and good if every child is isolating and teachers can move their classroom practice online, but that's not the situation we face. With the chaos of the testing system, schools are not closing, but are instead having to try to be fully operational during the day, while also supporting the needs of now thousands of additional children who cannot come into school, not because of illness, or even Covid-related symptoms, but because a family member simply cannot access the tests we were promised back in June.

With every teacher teaching a full timetable, taking on extra duties, extending their working hours to accommodate staggered starts, and risking taking the virus home to their own families every day, how dare he imply that it is schools that are letting pupils and their families down?

If teachers are managing to keep on top of the full-time job and also provide some meaningful remote learning for those trapped at home by government ineptitude, despite the lack of funding or resources, then the secretary of state ought to be commending and supporting those actions.

For him to imply that schools are not playing their part – how dare he?

A quotation from the late supreme court justice, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, who said: "Waste no time on anger, regret, or resentment, just get the job done." Not feeling angry is, I know, proving difficult at the moment, especially when we get so much sheer incompetence from our political leaders. And we live in angry times.

That is what schools are doing – just getting the job done.

You might have noticed some new faces at school this term. Miss G and Mr Regel are Flora Garden's new West London Zone Link Workers! Miss G will be working across Early Years (Thurs and Fri), and Mr Regel (Monday to Friday) will be based in KS1 and KS2.

'We both personally wanted to say how excited we were to start a new programme and just how welcoming and warm the wider school community has been in our first few weeks. We will be regular faces in and around school, always happy and available to chat, and we look forward to getting to know you all a lot better in the coming weeks and months!'
Miss G and Mr Regel





Our new Irish Culture after school club is being thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Year 6 have been practising their stitches on binca in preparation for their afro-fusion bags that they'll be making later on this term. We can't wait to see the finished products!

This week in Journalism Club we had the very exciting opportunity of interviewing some teachers from around the school.

Why did you choose to work at Flora Gardens?

Miss Earley - I came to visit on St Patrick's Day and there was a lovely assembly. The children were very friendly.

Mrs Grippman - Mr Naismith was planning lots of amazing things which persuaded me to come here.

How do you feel about working at our school?

Miss Earley - I feel great because all of the children are lovely and it makes me feel at home.

Mr Carter - It's amazing to work with lots of unique children who love learning.

What are your favourite hobbies?

Miss Earley - Walking, yoga, eating and meeting friends.

Mr Carter - Swimming and playing the guitar.

Mrs Grippman - Gym 6x a week and I'm currently writing a novel.

What is your favourite food?

Mr Carter - Lasagne and garlic bread.

Mrs Grippman - Carbs! I love potatoes.

Miss Earley - Bacon and cabbage.

Interview conducted by Adam, Eloise and Emese.



Trust

Value Award Winners

Respect

Nursery: Aaliyah

Reception: Hana

Year 1: Raihan

Year 2: Amaiah

Year 3: Lilah

Year 4: Ali B

Year 5: Eesa

Year 6: Iman

Fulfilment

Adventure

PE: Lilah & Ali E

Music: Year 2

Spanish: Year 3

Choose Your Attitude

Personal Wellbeing