

Let's all turn mature in '21. We have learnt a lot in the span of the past nine turbulent months. Our entire world 🌍 has been exposed to a relatively unknown virus which is still undergoing mutations.

The transition after Covid19 has been tough for all age groups.

But it has made most of us techno savvy. We have also discovered our latent storehouse of adaptability, optimism, resilience and empathy.

We hope to learn from our past mistakes and in **2021** pledge to rectify them.



Dear Students , Plan to be more systematic and organized. Wake up from your deep slumber of procrastination.

## REMEMBER:



Time and tide wait for none.

'If you can fill the unforgiving minute with

Sixty seconds worth of distance run,

Yours is the Earth and everything that is on it'.

**Rudyard Kipling** has so well summed up the value of time in his poem 'IF'. (<https://poets.org/poem/if>)

Please set your goals for this year and strive to achieve them.

## IMPORTANT DAYS IN JANUARY

**9th January:** Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated on 9th January every year to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India. January 9 was chosen as the day to celebrate this occasion since it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa, led India's freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever.

**11th January:** January 11 marks the death anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri, one of the greatest Indian statesmen and second prime minister of the country.

**12th January:** India celebrates National Youth Day on January 12. This date was chosen to honour the birthday of Swami Vivekananda, one of India's greatest spiritual and social leaders.

**15th January:** Army Day is celebrated on 15 Jan every year, to commemorate late Field Marshal KM Cariappa (then a Lt Gen) taking over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from Gen Sir Francis Robert Roy Bucher, the last British Commander -in-Chief of India on 15 Jan 1949.

**23rd January:** Subhas Chandra Bose's birthday is celebrated on January 23rd every year across various parts of the country. From this year Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti will be observed as Parakram Divas. It will mark his 125th birth anniversary.

**26th January:** Republic Day in India is celebrated on January 26 every year. This year, the country will be celebrating its 72nd Republic Day on Tuesday, January 26. It's the day, Constitution of India was adopted in 1950 after attaining the Independence on 15 August 1947.

**30th January:** Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on January 30, 1948. He led the country's freedom struggle with his non-violence movement.



Art by Lavanya Nair, 6B

### REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION AT VISSANJI ACADEMY ON 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021



HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATED IN INDIA ON 14th JANUARY



Art by Kanak Khatod,7A



Art by Viraj Singhania,7A



Art by Siddhi Nimbalkar,5A



Art by Krishna Smart,5C

## NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS MADE BY OUR STUDENTS

I have always heard people around me making resolutions when the New Year starts but never made one. So, this year I have decided to make my "New Year's Resolutions".

I have some weaknesses and I plan to improve on them. I am very impatient by nature, also I get angry and upset very fast even for silly reasons. This not only affects me but also my studies.

So, I promise to make a serious effort to improve myself by being more patient, controlling my temper and stop being upset for silly reasons.



- **Myraa Sangelkar, 3B**

My 1<sup>st</sup> goal for the New Year is to exercise regularly and stay fit.

In order to reach this goal, I will do a combination of things daily for an hour that includes doing yoga, brisk walking, cycling and P.E exercises taught in school.

My 2<sup>nd</sup> goal for the New Year is to watch less television.

In order to reach this goal, I will not watch television and play games on tab for more time to protect my eyes and also not watch television while eating food.

My 3<sup>rd</sup> goal for the New Year is to be more independent.

In order to reach this goal, I will keep my school books handy and organized, my wardrobe and room clean and try to do my other daily chores all by myself without taking help of elders.



- **Aarush Dalal, 3A**

Last year made me realise that as the time changes, I should bring some changes in myself in the New Year.

My 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's resolution is, I will wash my clothes on my own and hence take more responsibilities.

Health is Wealth. So, my 2<sup>nd</sup> resolution is adapting healthy habits and I have decided to start eating a few vegetables I used to avoid. I will eat whatever dishes are made for the three meals in the day.

Time is precious. Therefore, my 3<sup>rd</sup> resolution is to maintain a routine everyday and learn time management. I will respect my as well as others time while performing different activities and my work on time.

I hope to fulfill and keep working on these resolutions and make my life healthier and happier.



- **Divyanshi Rahul Virkar, 3A**

I have three goals for the New Year 2021.

My first New Year Goal is to study sincerely, my second goal is to grow plants and my third goal is to improve playing cricket.

In order to achieve my goals I will do the following –

1. To make a habit of studying sincerely, my parents and I have made a time-table and I have started following it.

2. I want to grow plants this year for which I have told my mother to give me seeds of the fruits we eat at home. I will sow these seeds to grow plants.

3. I like playing cricket and I want to improve my skills in it. For this, I will play cricket with my friends daily and if possible I will join a coaching class.



- **Ankan Gada, 3C**

My New Year Goal for 2021 is to figure out my interests and talents. During the lockdown many people have found out their hidden talents like cooking, drawing, craft, music, acting and many more. During this year of 2021, I will aim to find one new talent every month and become good at it. For this I will have to try out new things which I have never tried before. This will help me achieve my goal. Also, my goal is to finish the whole Geronimo Stilton and Thea Stilton series by the end of the year- I recently found out that I love to read Geronimo Stilton books. I have already finished around 50% of the books and I want to finish reading the remaining by the end of the year. For this I will have to finish reading at least two to three books per month and also completing my daily tasks and studies regularly.

I have made a resolution which is easy to follow so that I can reach my dreams.



- **Ginelle D'Silva, 3C**

1. I will not waste my time and use it wisely.
2. I will be happy and satisfied with what I have.
3. I will try my best to study independently.
4. I will keep my cupboard clean .



- **Dhriti Acharya, 3B**

1. To help others
2. I will always be grateful for what I get
3. I will be thankful to people

To help others, I will start helping my parents at home in doing little house works like filling water bottles, folding clothes etc.

To be grateful, I will write what good happens to me every day in a diary. It will help me to be grateful for what I have and be happy with it.

To be thankful to people, I will not only say thanks, but I will also be kind and helpful to them. This is my way of saying thank you to others.



- Arya Puprediwar ,3B

---

## LETTERS OF GRATITUDE TO THE INTERNET

#Dear Internet,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for being an indispensable part of my life. In this time of COVID – 19 pandemic, you have been a blessing in disguise. When we all were confined to the four walls of our home, it was you who made us feel connected to the outside world. We could connect with our grandparents, relatives and friends staying in different parts of the world by the click of one button. You are the storehouse of information and the best means of communication. Thank you once again and I hope to continue learning from you in the coming years.

With love,



- Aarnav Vengali, 5B

#Dear Internet,

The year 2020, has seen the entire humanity face trying times due to the terrible pandemic. In this pandemic scenario, where hospital outpatient departments were closed, you made it possible to have online consultation with doctors and specialists for all our illness and injuries. Since all religious places were closed, you also gave us an option of offering prayers to the Almighty through an online service system. If it were not for you dear internet, we would have found it very difficult to survive through this pandemic time. A 'big thank you' to you and your services, my friend Internet.

With love,



- Pashmira Kapadia,5B

#My Dear Internet,

How are you and your other blogs and apps? Hope you are providing your uninterrupted services to one and all at one go. I am also doing my classes with ease. Since the time of the lockdown because of the pandemic you have played an important role in our lives. I am thankful to you for connecting me to my classmates, teachers, relatives and friends. I am forever grateful for the kindle books and other e books that you have shared with me during this time that I had to spend at home.

I am very pleased with your service and thankful to you for teaching my mother and me so many new recipes. During this time I also learnt dancing and playing the keyboard.

Please accept my gratitude for all the services you have provided us with.

With love,

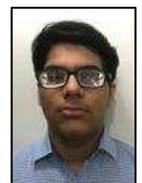


Shaurya Rana, 5C

#Dear Internet

The year 2020 has been an extremely difficult year for the world as a whole. Everyone from the rich to the poor has suffered. This pandemic has given us the time and opportunity to think and realise how grateful we are for the little things in life and how we must appreciate them. You are the only glimmer of hope in these difficult times and the world would have suffered much more without you. You are now being widely used in corporate jobs, schools, colleges and coaching classes. You have also given us the opportunity to stay updated with the digital world. You are indeed a blessing in disguise in this pandemic. Dear Internet, thank you so much for helping us through this pandemic.

Thanking you,  
Yours faithfully,



Hrithik Tandon, 9A

#Dear Internet,

You have proved to be a boon to everyone in this time of crisis. You have become a necessity as most of the work nowadays depends on you. You have made it possible for us to attend online classes and even appear for our school exams. I request you to be with us forever.

With love,



-Jatan Thanki,4A

# Dear Internet,

I am really thankful to you during this dangerous pandemic. You united me with my friends virtually. Last year, I was able to continue my studies because of you.

You gave me knowledge through many educational videos. You helped me with my projects and school assignments. You are my best friend. Today, you help the world to connect with each other easily in these hard times. The world would be nothing without you. So, thanks a lot for everything.

With love,



Anika Barase, 4C

#Dear Internet,

Everything has been harder this year, from seeing friends and family, to going to school. But you, our dear internet helped us in being connected to our loved ones.

We all are connected like neurons in a giant brain. Education comes to our doorstep. Teachers and students learn and interact through various online platforms. All of us are online for various occasions, from birthdays to festivals. Like the highway connecting places, you have connected people. Social Media platforms like Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat have seen an increase in its usage. Netflix, Prime, Zee5, Disney+ Hotstar have observed a great increase in their subscription. All the employees of the various Multinational companies work from home because of you.

You kept us connected to people and reduced isolation and boredom.

You have become a new trend for everything. You have always been and will always be a magic box.

Yours faithfully,



- Kirtika Jain, 9 A

#Dear Internet,

I am really happy to pen down a few lines to thank you for being in our lives and help us overcome this pandemic time.

The pandemic made us realize your importance by making our parents work online and we could attend online classes, pay bills and shop online because of you. We have overcome this phase very easily. Thanks for being in our lives and making it simpler and easier.

With love,



Aharyan Marathe, 5A

#Dear Internet,

Thank you for giving me quick replies to my queries. Without you I couldn't have met my friends and teachers during this pandemic. I am really speechless for what you have done. I am really thankful to you for giving me tips and tricks to perform better. At first, you seemed to be just a search engine, but you are totally incredible. Thank you, Mr. Internet, for all your help and support.

With love,



Aashna Anjaria, 4B

# Dear Internet,

You have certainly been a boon for the entire world this year. When our Prime minister declared lockdown, schools, colleges and offices in the public and private sector were shut down. As a result we had to take your help. You have been a boon to us for our educational purposes. 'Work from home' has become the new normal. You have efficiently helped us to adapt to the pandemic. You have connected us with our relatives and friends. For these reasons I am grateful to you.



- Nafisa Kanpurwala, 10 B

# Dear Internet,

2020 has been an exceptionally difficult year filled with unprecedented challenges and changes but you are the one that has been a constant companion and a consistent pillar of assistance.

Thank you for providing a way to carry on with our normal lifestyle which initially appeared impossible. An entire year of my education would have been wasted had it not been for the online classes. Thank you for helping me connect with my friends and family and keeping me informed of the happenings around the world.

During the lockdown, as we remained confined to our homes, all of my outdoor recreational activities came to a halt. It left me with no outlet to relieve my stress which made me mentally exhausted and bored. I'm thankful to you for offering me a break in the form of e-books, movies, songs and online puzzles.

Thank you internet, without whom the world would have quite literally come to a standstill and without whom the consequences of this pandemic would have been way more terrible.



- Pavithra Achar, 9B

# Dear Internet,

Forty years ago, if such a dreadful pandemic had broken out, we would have all been cut off socially, and having nothing to keep us busy, would have been extremely unproductive. After you were born, we have taken many of your provisions for granted. During this lockdown, we have realised how you have truly helped us to live up to the name of 'social animals'. It does not matter how far our family or friends are, we can instantly connect with them via your varied video conferencing platforms. Although meeting and greeting personally enhances the actual mood for any celebration, yet virtual ones are not that bad. Attending virtual schools has not brought the world to a standstill, but has kept it moving with e-learning. Most importantly, you have given us a platform to showcase our feelings for compassion, love and care, without being physically present. Here I too am honoured to show my gratitude to you. Truly, you have weaved all 7 billion people together, and is enabling us to get through this tough situation in all possible aspects.



- Shalini Majhumdar, 10 C

### WHAT 2020 TAUGHT ME

2020 started like a normal year. The clock struck midnight, you got hundreds of messages on your phone and you started writing 1/1/20. After a couple of months, COVID came in and brought along with it the lockdown.

This pandemic showed us the flip side of life. It taught us to value our lives. You all must have got endless quotes on your phone in the last year telling you to live the moment. But have any of us done that?

There were days when we had just wished to have a break, when we wanted to relax and do nothing else. But, when we got that chance, we could not enjoy it for more than three days.

According to me, 2020 taught us to do what we liked. We have seen doctors and engineers dancing and singing! Because at the end of the day, you just need to live the moment.

It taught us to plan for unforeseen circumstances. It taught us to spend judiciously and last but not the least, it taught us to stay together with our family. Although everyone curses 2020, I think it has taught us a lot.



- Veer Rathod, 9C

### MY GOAL THIS YEAR

One goal that I would like to accomplish in this New Year is to work on my art skills. I want to pencil sketch even better. I am good at drawing, painting and colouring but my sketching skills are a bit questionable. So I want to enhance it. I also want to participate in several art competitions, so knowing all forms of artwork thoroughly is essential.

Few ways in which I can achieve this are :-

I will practice by doing one sketch a day. I will start doing small sketches a day and gradually increase my level of difficulty. Due to the lockdown I may not be able to go for drawing classes but I can surely attend them online. After each sketch I will also show my drawing to my school art teacher for approval. I shall also do some finger exercises to keep my fingers agile, steady and flexible while drawing.

If I passionately do this much everyday, I will surely be able to achieve this goal of improving my sketching skills by the end of this year.



- Shruti Iyer, 7A

## STEPPING INTO THE NEW YEAR WITH A RESOLUTION



We all have stepped into the New Year 2021, with lots of expectations that this year will have something positive in store for us.

When we turn back and look at the year gone by, we can see the difficult times we all have faced because of this pandemic. Our entire life had turned upside down because of the sudden imposition of the lockdown. Many of the people had lost their only source of income, many had to leave the cities of their

dreams and return to their hometowns, many of the people had suddenly lost their loved ones and many had to just sit at home with the hope that things would change sooner.

Leaving all these negatives behind, let's look at the positive side, it was that same last year that brought all the family members together under one roof. Many of us got a lot of quality time to spend with our family members not only eating together but also playing together, which I believed we had never thought of. Some of us even got the time to tap on our talents which we had forgotten about, because of our hectic lifestyle. It was that same last year that made us realise to get in touch with our relatives with whom we had never been in touch with, just to check their health and the situation in their localities.

So, the last year was not only of negatives but also the positives. But there is one thing that it made me realise that life is very uncertain, so I need to utilise every minute and every talent that I am blessed with in the best possible way, not only for my benefit but for the benefit of the others as well.

So, just as I stepped into this New Year the resolution which I made and would make sure would strictly follow during this year is that I would take good care of my health which is of utmost importance considering the current scenario. If we are healthy then only we will be able to take care of our loved ones and set a good example for the others. I will make sure to avoid junk foods, to exercise regularly, to sleep well, to think positively in all situations, to be happy and to spend quality time with people around me, which is very important as life is very unpredictable. So students, I would want you as well to make a resolution which will not only have a positive effect on you but also on people around you and bring a smile on their faces.

I would like to conclude with this quote by Anne Frank, "Whoever is happy will make others happy too."

- English Department, Primary Section



### Standard 10 Farewell Programme on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Goodbyes are not forever; Goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean we will miss you until we meet again. Let your farewell from Vissanji Academy open newer doors for you. We wish you all the very best for your bright future.