



GRATITUDE

Food! Water Shelter
Family & Love & Kindness
Health & Life
Education & Faith
Freedom
Voices
Choice
Home, Warmth
Courage
Safety

COURAGE
HEALTH
LOVE
LIFE
CARE
HUMANITY

NEWS ISH



RICHA ELSA GEORGE

Assisted by: J Ranjekha

EDITOR'S NOTE

The first edition of *the Newsish 2020* is all about 'Gratitude and Cheer'. 2020 has been an eventful year, to say the least, and it is absolutely necessary for us to focus on the positives rather than the negatives.

We cannot, of course, stay completely immune to the chaos around us, but it is now time for us to be thankful for what we *have* in our lives. We have to plant the seeds of gratitude in our minds during this time.

There has been a paradigm shift in our thinking and outlook to life, during the lockdown.

I would like to thank our Principal, Mrs. Omana Thomas for giving us the opportunity to take the Newsish online on the Sishya portal. This magazine would have been

impossible to put together without the support and guidance given by Mrs. Jyotsna Khanna and the hard work put in by the Editorial board.

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GRATITUDE AND CHEER

Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness. Through the raging storms in our lives, we find it difficult to take a minute and count all the blessings and mercies that have been bestowed upon us. This pandemic has served as a reality check for many of us. It has brought families closer, strengthened our bonds and has made us all introspect as to how unexpected life is.

Gratitude helps to turn chaos into order. It brings peace for today and hope for tomorrow. No matter how uncertain and challenging life is, there is always something to be grateful for.

We should take time to reflect and ponder and look for the sunshine in the cloudy sky. It is easy to think about your past misfortunes but we rarely pause to remember the goodness showered upon us daily.

No storm can last forever. When the rains and the storms subside, there will always be a rainbow in the sky to cheer us. Use this time to do what makes you happy and connect with people around you.

Gratitude is the manifestation of love, devotion and commitment towards those who mean the most to you. It encompasses shared experiences and shared love. The foundation of abundance starts by acknowledging the goodness around us.

We can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorns have roses.

Richa Elsa George
(EDITOR)

12 B

THIS LOCKDOWN PERIOD HAS REKINDLED FAMILY BONDS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the entire world has come to a standstill. People have not been able to step out of their homes. This has led to boredom and anxiety. However, due to the new work-from-home initiative, families have been able to spend more time together and this has been a boon in disguise.

Since the lockdown has begun, people have become more creative as there has been more time to explore our interests and pursue our talents and hobbies which have provided a distraction from the monotonous lockdown life. Playing instruments and music, painting, cooking and playing games have all been relaxing ways to unwind during the lockdown. During the stressful times of the virus we have picked some new skills along the way.



Many parents are unable to spend time with their kids since they're busy with work. This pandemic has been a saving grace for parents who are busy with work and do not get enough time to spend with their children. Quality time with the family has made the lockdown far more enjoyable and less boring.

To maintain social distancing, due to the pandemic, cooks and cleaners have not been allowed to work in several households. This has led to children and parents doing chores together and therefore it has been a productive and useful way for everyone to spend their time.

The lockdown has given people an opportunity to explore their interests which they normally wouldn't have had the chance to. The excess free time during the lockdown, used properly and wisely has ushered in new talents and hobbies.

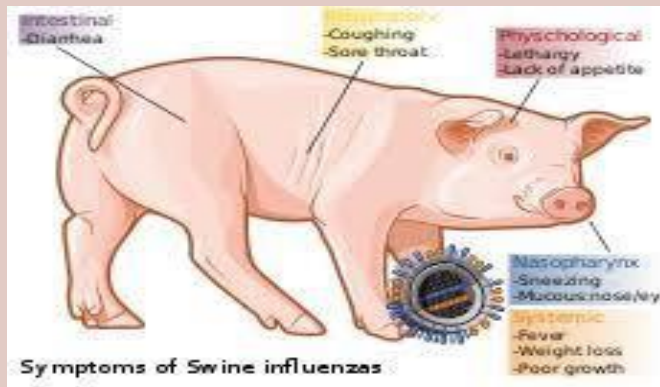
Aditi Krishnan 7 A and Aadhit Rau 7 c

A PANDEMIC WHICH WREAKED HAVOC IN 2009

The swine flu is an infection in the human respiratory system which initially started in pigs. The swine flu was first recognized in the 1919 as a pandemic and it still circulates as a seasonal flu virus. The main symptoms of swine flu were fever, cough, sore throat and runny nose. Panavax is a vaccine which helps to prevent infection from the swine flu. The second wave of the swine flu emerged in January 2009 and ended in the year of 2010 in August. It lasted for about 19 months and caused approximately 5,00,000 deaths, worldwide.

The positive things that happened during the swine flu pandemic were that the world may have suffered but everybody fought and took various precautions when they found out about the swine flu in 2015.

The swine flu was one of the most terrible pandemics the world had ever faced but everyone united and fought it. This shows that there are positive things even during pandemics. Every time a pandemic occurs, rather than focusing on all the negative aspects we should focus on the brighter side of life and the positive side of everything!



Sahana Suman 6B

Shubham Daga 6A

SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGES THAT BROKE THE INTERNET

People have turned to social media during the pandemic for entertainment and this has led to some extremely unique social media challenges. From fitness to choreographed dance routines, people are displaying their talents and skills. Several social media challenges took the world by storm, earning users a moment of fame, sure to ward off boredom.

One such has been the ‘Until Tomorrow’ challenge. In this challenge, you have to post an embarrassing picture of yourself and the picture must stay posted for 24 hours. Anyone who likes your post should be nominated to do the same. It is safe to say that this challenge definitely brought about a smile on people’s faces!

Another challenge that went viral on social media was the “Safe Hands” challenge. ‘Safe hands challenge’ was as interesting as it was useful. In this challenge, you would create a video of how you wash your hands using soap. Spearheaded by celebrities, this challenge enabled the promotion of washing hands regularly, which is crucial in such times.



When staying at home, it is important to stay fit and healthy, and the “Your name is your workout challenge” allowed us to do just that. Each letter of your name had a corresponding fitness challenge. People would have to record themselves completing this workout and post it to Instagram. Those with longer names got a little unlucky with this challenge!

Arguably the hardest challenge, the “Patience Test” was definitely the most fun to watch. At the start of the test, parents place treats in front of their children and tell them not to eat anything until they get back before going into another room, whilst secretly recording them to see how long they can resist the temptation.

These social media challenges were a great way to spend time at home, where everyone is safe and healthy!

Shalini Kandasamy
11 A

GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

With the stretch of unfortunate events kicking off in 2020, the year has been cruel to the entire world, especially Bollywood. The entertainment industry has lost some of the noted celebrities and the absence of these stars has created a void that can never be filled. From Irrfan Khan to Sushant Singh Rajput and Rishi Kapoor, here are some legends who left us in 2020.

It is difficult for Sushant Singh Rajput's fans and admirers to come to terms with his death. On June 14, the actor, 34, was found dead at his Bandra apartment. His demise has sparked a debate on social media about the alleged nepotism and favoritism in Bollywood. The government has also ordered a CBI inquiry following popular public demand. Subsequently, several stars came out and shared their ugly experiences in the industry on social media platforms.

Rishi Kapoor was a well-known romantic hero, born into Bollywood's first family. Starring in around ninety two romantic movies, winning the hearts of the masses with his chocolate boy looks, Rishi Kapoor became one of the most successful stars in the 80s. The actor succumbed on 30th April 2020 after battling leukaemia for two years.

Irrfan Khan was an incredibly versatile actor who was seen in Indian, British and American cinema. He was one of the few Indian actors who had made an indelible mark even in Hollywood. He starred in a vast range of roles exhibiting his talent as an actor. Internationally he starred in the Oscar winning film 'Slumdog Millionaire' and 'Life of Pi'. In 2018, he was diagnosed with neuroendocrine tumour and ultimately passed away in April 2020.

People all over the world are saddened by the deaths of these amazing Bollywood actors. Though now they are gone, they will never be forgotten.



Harini Rammohan(11A) & Nayantara Chummar (11B)

CELEBRITIES CONDUCTING ONLINE CONCERTS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR FRONTLINE HEALTH WORKERS

Health care workers around the world are risking their lives to prevent the transmission of coronavirus and save lives. This called for a show of gratitude. Celebrities paid tribute to essential workers across the globe through online events, resulting in a few of the largest fundraisers in the entire history of mankind.

‘One World: Together at home’, held on the 19th of April this year, was witness to a star-studded line up of the biggest artistes in Hollywood. It was organized by Global Citizen and Lady Gaga. Hosted by the famous late-night talk show hosts, Jimmy Fallon, Jimmy Kimmel, and Stephen Colbert, the event included music performances, as well as conversations with politicians and health care leaders. This event featured performances from musical legends like Sam Smith, to appearances from former first ladies , Michelle Obama and Laura Bush. Taylor Swift and the Rolling Stones were some of the big celebrities to perform during the event. This event raised a mind-blowing sum of \$127 million for regional charities working to address the outbreak of the novel coronavirus.

“I For India: The Concert for our Times” was a fundraiser concert created by filmmakers Karan Johar and Zoya Akhtar to help raise funds for frontline workers who are working round the clock to contain the pandemic. This digital concert was held live on May 3rd through Facebook. All the proceeds from the fundraiser concert went to the India COVID Response Fund managed by GiveIndia. Famous personalities from Alia Bhatt and Virat Kohli to Will Smith and Joe Jonas performed and raised up to 52 crores. The event consisted of 85 Indian and international celebrities who brought the entire



nation together.

The event “ Pacific Unite; Saving Lives Together” was held on 15 August 2020, in one of the world's most remote regions, the Pacific Islands. It was a first-of-its-kind televised and digitally streamed concert organized by the United Nations. The virtual concert included appearances from the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, Director of the World Health Organisation Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and many more. It featured performances from dozens of artists including singer Vanessa Quai and reggae artist Jah-Boy from the Solomon Islands.

Ayesha Johar – 9A , Tia Thadani – 9B , Gauhet Poddar 9 C

THE FEED INDIA CAMPAIGN

Vikas Khanna, a celebrated Indian Michelin-star chef, restaurateur and culinary book writer made headlines recently for his **Feed India** Initiative. Amid the raging coronavirus pandemic his campaign has fed over twenty million Indians across one-hundred and twenty five cities, delivering cooked meals and dry rations. He credits his initiative to his mother, who told him, 'it is your turn to give to those who made you, who you are!'. His philanthropy has been widely recognized and appreciated.

Sitting in New York across oceans, Vikas Khanna has reached millions in old age homes, leprosy centres, orphanages and slums. He turned fifty-eight fuel stations along the Uttar Pradesh-Maharashtra highway into food stations serving cooked meals to hungry labourers. He supplied dry rations consisting of rice, lentils and wheat flour to kitchens which could make fresh food and distribute while also serving cooked meals such as 'dal khichdi' to those without cooking facilities. Knowing hunger would be rampant after the whole country suffered this terrible pandemic and was put under strict lockdown, he thought this was the best way to reach millions. Each meal was served with dignity and passion lending Vikas's celebrated master chef status a lot of credibility. Vikas' Feed India Campaign has undoubtedly been a humanitarian effort towards society. He has encouraged us to aid the needy during unprecedented and unfortunate circumstances like these.



Manasi Arvind 8B

Rian Nair 8A

Tribulations of migrant workers and Indian stars rising to the occasion to send them home



The woeful plight of the migrant workers in the country calls attention to the cracks in the bedrock of the establishment, our country. The stark economic disparity among sections of India is one of concern, especially now, as this discrepancy is underscored by the ongoing pandemic. With the abrupt imposition of the lockdown on March 25, the migrant workers were the ones to take the immediate hit. The workers were the very personification of “indefatigable” in their resolved pursuit to reach their families by adopting means such as walking, hitchhiking and taking state buses. The state of affairs at present spotlights how our economic standing determines which polar opposite of ‘care’ one is entitled to. The government was slow to respond to mitigate the crisis, but fortunately several celebrities contributed. One such individual is Sonu Sood, a celebrated Bollywood figure who initiated the “Ghar Bhejo” campaign along with Neeti Goel that helped almost 12,000 migrants reach their homes. Sood is also collaborating with the State governments across the country to provide financial assistance to over 400 families of migrant workers. Stars like Rakul Preet Singh has been preparing meals everyday for over 250 families living in slums close to her residence. Bollywood icons such as Shah Rukh Khan and Amitabh Bachchan also helped arrange transport to help migrant workers reach home. Despite the hard efforts undertaken by several celebrities, several migrant workers remain destitute and deprived of their basic needs at the time of a pandemic.

Ranjekha J and Sreedaya Arvind 12C

SISHYA'S GOT TALENT



155 days and counting.....we have been staring at these same four walls and the same people. While a few of us spent our lockdown catching up on lost sleep and taking a break from our stressful schedules a few of our students streamlined their unknown hidden talents. They've spent these past days enhancing and exploring various skills, a few are documenting their journey on their Instagram pages. These young minds have achieved so much in such a short span of time.

Over the last 5 months they have grown both as individuals and as professionals and have struck the perfect balance between the demanding curriculum and their passion. This unceasing lockdown took a toll on us mentally and physically but also pushed us to move out of our comfort zone and think outside the box. The diversity in today's generation is noteworthy. From arts to music to cooking, they have conquered every domain they have entered. Their dedication and passion has led to their success and they have used this time to their advantage in ways many people only dream of. We are grateful to be a part of such a positive environment, an essential in these times of global distress.

Below are a few diamonds of Sishya in the rough that you must check out.

DANCE/MUSIC:

- ✦ @__inayat.
- ✦ @danceolution_
- ✦ @dancingthroughart
- ✦ @ankithzmusic
- ✦ @sanskrrtskrtr

COOKING:

- ✦ @x_foodiegram_x
- ✦ @messy.cooks
- ✦ @crustytale
- ✦ @splatters_spatulas
- ✦ @when.sapad.met.thali

INFORMATIVE:

- ✦ @karangaglaniofficial
- ✦ @common_money_man
- ✦ @doggiedreams.in
- ✦ @shallowruminations
- ✦ @_allabouteverything__

ART:

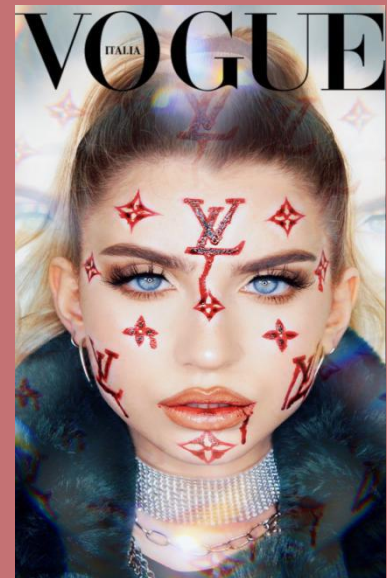
- ✦ @neko.zine
- ✦ @tea.vinci
- ✦ @artshnaa
- ✦ @pinkflutterx
- ✦ @__nika.art__
- ✦ @_roroarts_
- ✦ @artsyzeus
- ✦ @artsy.kavsy
- ✦ @__nayantara__
- ✦ @callistobyhitakshi

THE RISE AND FALL OF TIKTOK

Tiktok, known in China as Douyin, is a video sharing social media app. It is an app which allows users to create and post short videos showcasing their talents, whether it is singing, dancing, cooking, fashion or comedy, its rise to fame was guaranteed. With the numerous sounds available on the app accompanied with the easy layout and fun filters, one can see why it was so popular.

Tiktok although originally created to share dance and lip-syncing videos, became so much more than that in a very short span of time. It soon became a platform where someone could be proud and display their culture and heritage, where people could share their stories and struggles, where people could be authentic with no judgement passed.

All these factors made it rise to the top of the charts. However, Tiktok is not all rainbows and sunshine, with a slew of inappropriate content popping up on the app and many allegations of Tiktok leaking its user data.



A lot of Tiktok trends involve make up looks, dances or sounds, and specific filters. Some popular trends are the 'Euphoria' Make-Up Look and the 'Renegade' dance. There is one thing in particular that sets Tiktok aside from other social media platforms, and that is its ability to make users feel like they're watching a TV show.

TikTok, which was among the most popular apps in India, is looking at tough times ahead. The reason for this being the anti-China sentiments in the country followed by morality arguments to ban the app on the Google Play store.



Earlier this year, the Government of India banned 59 Chinese apps along with TikTok. The Ministry of Information and Technology of India had reported many various complaints from users across the country regarding the misuse of some apps for hacking and transmitting user data to locations outside India. Few of the apps like "Shareit, Shein, Helo, Likee, Club factory" and many more were a part of this list. Its rating dropped from 4.6 stars to 2 stars on Google Play store after an Internet war erupted between a YouTube influencer and TikTok creator in India. It looks like it has an uncertain future in India after downloads fell by 51% during the last few months.

Many people across the country were active users of these apps. The ban has created a lot of stir in people's minds, and has not been a welcome move among some people. But as this decision has been taken in the national interest it is for the Indian users to abide by it.

ALINA MEDEKAR 10 C

PARTHIVI MOHUNTA 10 A

TANVI NERLEKAR 10 B

TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Sharadha Ma'am



During this global pandemic, in what ways have your teaching methods changed?

Moving to online classes has made us redesign the structure of our classes. Yet we have managed to find new activities which can be played without being in a circle and the discussions are also working well.

How have you been reaching out to the students during this time?

Initially, the change took some getting used to but the convenience of breakout rooms has sorted our need to touch base with groups or individuals.

What are the hassles that you have faced in this difficult time?

The restriction of movement is difficult and even though we may have some movement-based activities it is nothing like having our VE class space. Up-Skilling our technological know-how has been a challenge but we learn a new thing every day. For me, it's been a case often of the student becoming the teacher which is always fun.

Have you learned any new skill or maybe pursued a hobby?

I have had to curtail some hobbies but have taken up yoga again and am enjoying that. I had thought I would get out my sewing machine and do some quilting but haven't yet got around to that!

What do you miss the most since post lockdown?

Well, to be frank, I enjoy hanging about at home so the lockdown just gave me a reason to avoid going out! But I do miss eating out or going for a play or movie.

*Esther Susan Thomas
12 B*

Anjana Ma'am



How has teaching changed for you because of quarantine? How do you see teaching change after this entire ordeal?

I never thought even in my wildest dreams that I would be teaching through computer screens! I try and use different tools in classes which I never tried earlier. Sometimes I feel, I have delivered a topic better through this mode of teaching. I think teachers will stop fearing computers and will be more willing to use technology in classrooms.

What has quarantine taught you? What hobbies/activities have you taken up during quarantine and how have you been coping with the isolation?

Self-discipline. I have a set time for everything I do and I stick to it. It's a lesson to take forward and I am so happy with this change in my lifestyle.

I have taken up yoga! I am a fanatic now! I'm keeping myself busy with classes, household chores and my yoga mat. I think we will never get this kind of family time in future.

Do you have anything you'd like to tell all the students stuck at home and in quarantine?

It's important to find something positive in all circumstances. We are always busy with the outside world.

This is the time you can look within, and have a nice hearty conversation with your parents and some fun times with your siblings. We will learn to slow down in this fast paced world. These are memories you will cherish in future.

*Shanna Abraham
12C*

Anu Ma'am



What has significantly changed in holding virtual classes in comparison to in-person classes?

It has a pretty big change considering the teaching patterns we have been following all these years. The biggest barrier has been the lack

of face to face interactions with the students, but on the bright side I would say that all of us teachers and students alike have become much more tech-savvy.

Do you frequently face technological issues and how does it hinder the flow of class?

Connectivity has been an obstacle and its not uncommon for most families to have three to four devices running simultaneously. As a result, often students tend to disconnect which can prove harmful in their understanding of concepts at such a tender age.

How do you ensure the participation of students in the virtual mode?

In my opinion I think it's a fifty-fifty contribution of both the students and the teachers because students need to put in an effort to grasp the concepts, but yes, to answer your question conducting quizzes, asking students to prepare and conduct seminars and asking students to answer questions based on what is taught are some of the ways to ensure participation by students.

What is your preferred mode of teaching- online or by being physically present?

Having taught face to face for all these years I would always prefer the latter but of course I'll aim to incorporate the pros of technology to get the best out of students.

Aditya Shankar 12 B

Robert Sir



When did you join Sishya ?

I joined Sishya school in January 2006 .

Which classes did you start out teaching?

I started teaching the 12th standard immediately as I had 10 year's experience teaching at ISC schools up to that point.

In all your years of teaching, what has been your fondest memory?

At Sishya, I find that every day is a joyful moment. If I had to pick something it would be the race I had to verify that a lighter object can run faster than a heavier one, and I raced against a student and lost, but I think that depended less on mass and more on age. I also remember having to shave my moustache

which I didn't. The race continued in following years during the excursion, where I won.

You have a reputation as a disciplinarian. Is there anything that you reprimanded a student for that you secretly found amusing?

I find that students sometimes tuck in the front of their shirts, but when I walk past them I find that the back is untucked. I always found this very amusing.

In all your years of teaching, which batch have you enjoyed the most?

I can't remember the exact year, but in 12th standard one year, I told them that I wanted more 90s in Chemistry than in Maths. I said this jokingly, but by the end of the year there were two more 90s in Chemistry than in Maths, and they invited me for a treat afterwards. I can't forget that batch.

What's the one thing you've learnt from the students that you will always remember?

I have learnt most technological things from the students. At the beginning of the pandemic, a student contacted me recommending Zoom to run classes. I said that I did not know how to use it so he invited me to meet with my laptop, and within 20 minutes he taught me the basics. After that I learned from mistakes and have become confident with the platform.

Another thing that has inspired me about Sishya students is how much respect they have for teachers and how former students make an effort to meet teachers when they visit Chennai. It has really touched me and it is something I will miss a lot.

Any parting words?

I really can't believe that 14 years have gone so fast. I felt that just yesterday I stepped into school and today I'm walking out. The freedom given by our principal is really really great. She let me teach how I wanted to, so effectively which made me really enjoy my teaching career. I enjoyed every moment. I really did.

I want to thank the management too. I don't feel like I have moved out of Sishya. At the farewell I told the teachers that I am still a part of Sishya, I'm just moving to another campus. That is the bond that I have with the school almost like a covalent bond.

Raul Sharma and Adam Mihir Libby 11A

CHOCOLATE ESPRESSO BROOKIES



Recipe by Tamana Rajdev

INGREDIENTS :

Maida (All-purpose flour) – ½ cup

- Corn flour - 2 ¼ tsp
- Baking powder – 1/4th tsp
- Instant Coffee Powder – 2 tbsp
- Vanilla Essence- 2-3 drops
- Dark Chocolate- 1 bar
- Butter – 1 tbsp
- Milk – To bind
- Sugar – 3 tbsp
- Chocolate chips/Chocolate chunks

PROCEDURE:

Step 1: Melt the butter and the chopped dark chocolate bars together in a microwave. To it add the instant coffee powder and mix well.

Step 2: In a bowl, mix the all-purpose flour, corn flour, baking powder, sugar and the vanilla essence thoroughly.

Step 3: Add the butter and the chocolate coffee paste and mix thoroughly, use milk to bind.

Step 4: Add chocolate chips/chocolate chunks.

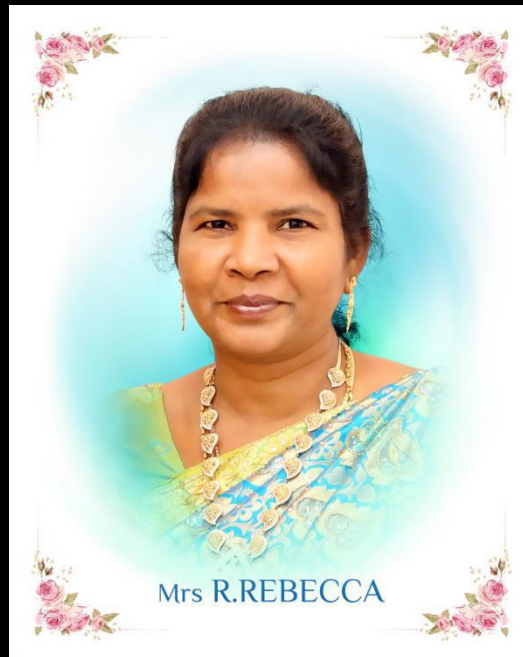
Step 5: Using a spoon, drop small portions into the baking tray lined with butter paper. Flatten lightly and bake in a preheated oven for 12-15 mins at 180 degree C

TRIBUTE TO REBECCA AKKA

COVID-19 has wreaked devastation and suffering in its wake and Sishya has not been an exception. On the 2nd of August, we faced the devastating loss of Rebecca Akka to the virus.

To any student, teacher and parent, Rebecca and Rajesh have been an integral part of the Sishya experience. They have dealt with hordes of hungry children, yelling orders left and right and yet they greeted everyone with a smile. Rebecca Akka handled the madness with ease and will forever be near and dear to all our hearts.

May her soul rest in peace.



FUN CORNER

If a red house is made of red bricks, and a yellow house is made of yellow bricks, what is a greenhouse made of?

ANSWER: GLASS,
ALL GREENHOUSES ARE MADE OF GLASS

I am an odd number. Take away a letter and I become even.
What number am I?

ANSWER: SEVEN



Find the objects

Gratitude Jar

fill the jar with everything that you're grateful for



Newsish

