

JANE FARRELL BALLET SCHOOL

Newsletter September - 2020

Ballet is back! It has been a real joy to see all the pupils again, with just a few unable to return yet as they are shielding vulnerable family members.

Before allowing us to open in September, both the management of the Guide Hall and of Parkstone United Reformed Church, put in place safety procedures such as extra cleaning and social distancing measures. I submitted plans and risk assessments for ballet classes which complied with their requirements, so we were able to start live classes. We hope this will continue, but we will have to obey any new Government restrictions. If all else fails we can go back to Zoom!

Autumn term 2019 went well, with normal classes, and rehearsals for our ballet *Dr. Who*. This was our contribution to the Western Association of Ballet School's (WABS) performance, *Lights, Camera Action* – the overall theme was BAFTA winners. This took place in November and was a great success.

We had planned to perform *Dr. Who* again with some other new dances at our own School Show in May. Preparations were going well, but then the Coronavirus Pandemic began. The last live ballet classes were on Wednesday 25th March and full lockdown over the whole country began the next Monday.

Virtual classes over Zoom were the way forward! Seniors took part in a trial class and then answered a short questionnaire which was very helpful. I set up a barre and laid a square of dance flooring in my conservatory which became my ballet studio for the Summer. Pupils managed to find places to dance at home and I was delighted that so many people were able to take part. It was fun to see a few pets who were introduced at the end of class!

Pavilion Dance was also closed so our May show was postponed to 15th November. However, the pandemic lasted much longer than anyone anticipated so that date has now been cancelled. All activities with Western Association of Ballet Schools and their performances in 2020 have also been postponed.

However, we are looking towards 2021 now and hope that everything will improve. Our next show is planned for Saturday 15th May 2021 at Pavilion Dance. All pupils take part, and as this will be our school's 30th Anniversary Performance we are planning to make it very special!