

Tuesday 20 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today is the last day of a tumultuous academic year for all of our wonderful pupils and what a rollercoaster it has been. We are sending them home, hot and happy and we will see them return to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, hopefully rested and ready to learn.

The children have made exceptionally good progress since they all returned in March and I am delighted that they have finished in such a positive position at the end of term. This is down to sheer hard work, the excellent subject knowledge of our teachers and the great partnership, that has never been stronger, that exists between home and school. Well done to everyone for coming together so effectively to give our children such a positive end to the year!

We had two, 'leavers assemblies' today for our two Year 6 classes which were held outside in the sunshine. It is important to reflect on the many positive experiences the children have had during their time with us and it was nice to hear the children's recollections and their hopes for the future. I am delighted we got the opportunity to share this with Year 6 parents and I would like to thank them again for their great support over the years. We always say that the children are the best advert for what we do at school and we are very proud of our Year 6, for who they are and for their many achievements.

Staying with the theme of 'leavers', today is the last day at Woodloes for some of our staff. Mrs Bailey leaves today to take care of her young family. She has just returned following her maternity leave and, after talking to her this week, I suspect she will be keen to return on supply at some point in the near future.

Mrs Hood also leaves today after being with the Woodloes school community for many years. Mrs Hood has supported a huge number of Woodloes children and staff, with her amazing 'crafting skills' and she heads into her retirement with our massive thanks and best wishes.

Miss Hanna is leaving after working with Year 6 to cover first for Mrs Khaira and then latterly for Mrs Burnard after she emigrated to Spain. Miss Hanna has given great support to the Year 6 children and she goes with our thanks and best wishes.

Miss Van Hesselt is leaving today as she intends to start training to become a teacher in September. She has done a fantastic job supporting different pupils across the school, showing great versatility, and we are very confident she will become an excellent teacher. Huge thanks and best wishes go to her also.

Mrs Walden starts her maternity leave so we wish her and her family all the best at this exciting time and Miss Younghusband is getting married over the summer. Fortunately, she will be back in September...

I know many of you are keen to know our plans for September as there has been a lot of speculation about the changes that have been proposed. We have received some new guidelines but have also been informed by the local authority that further guidance will be received nearer to the start of term that better reflects what is happening nationally and locally. We have started this planning process and are hoping to return to a plan that more closely resembles how the school was managed before the pandemic. However, further guidance is needed before risk assessments and plans can be finalised so this information will not be available until nearer the start of term. As soon as this is available, I will email everyone and put risk assessments on the website so everyone can be fully informed and confident before the term begins. More details to follow in due course.

I have sent an open letter from WCC today which PHE were very keen for every school parent to receive. They are understandably concerned about the increasing number of positive cases, nationally and locally and are advising caution as we start the summer holidays. Covid-caution is an important consideration for us all and I would also add to this that wherever we go on holiday this year that we take extra care around any water. There have been lots of incidents this weekend, UK destinations will be very busy and lots of children will not have had any swimming lessons for the last couple of years, so please take extra care.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the amazing sense of support and partnership that has characterised our school community this year. Our staff have gone above and beyond to do their best for the children whether they have been working in school or at home and I am full of admiration for their versatility, resilience, talent and determination. I am also in awe by the way our parent community have also risen to the challenge of working from home, taking care of families, developing new subject knowledge and teaching skills, supporting live lessons on TEAMS and still finding the time buy gifts and send messages of support to our staff. It has been a magnificent effort from everyone this year and I am incredibly proud to have had a role to play within this fantastic school community. Huge thanks to everyone!

Have a wonderful summer, please take care, and we all look forward to seeing you safe and well in September.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Mitchell (Head Teacher)