

VANE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL
FRIDAY 17TH JULY 2020
WWW.VANEROADPRIMARY.CO.UK

Message from Mr. Pavey

Well, we have made it to the end of the most bizarre school year of our lives! It has been an extremely challenging time for everyone and whilst the pandemic is definitely not over, as we look towards September, there is a sense of returning normality.

It is a fitting moment to say a number of thank yous:

Firstly, to the Governors, superbly lead by our Chair of Governors Mr Dave Wallace, for their constant support, challenge and guidance. We have met a lot over the recent months and we have all become very used to Teams meetings. It has been through working closely with them that we have been able to work our way through this incredibly challenging time.

I would like to thank all the Parents/Carers, Uncles, Aunties, Grandma's, Grandad's (the list could go on forever!) who do a fabulous job of supporting the children. I know from personal experience that just getting the children to school with everything they need is a full day's work. The support that you have given the children and the school throughout Lockdown has been outstanding. Getting to grips with home learning was not what you expected at the beginning of the year and you have done marvelously. I have really appreciated the honest feedback that you have given in the surveys that have been sent out and it is clear that you value the work of the school. You have always been so supportive of the school and non-more so than over the past few months; without the support of you, we would not be able to do the brilliant things we do with the children. It has also been very kind and generous that so many of you have dropped of gifts for the staff which were very much appreciated.

Next, I would like to thank the whole staff. This has been such a challenging year and I have been so grateful for their hard work and dedication. They have rallied round when I have been working at Woodham Burn and ensured that the fantastic work continues in my absence. Staff have come to school during Lockdown to look after Key Worker children at their own personal risk without a murmur of a grumble; they have tackled the complexities of on-line learning; they have gone above and beyond in their duty of care for the families and children of the school, a fact not missed by the parents/cares (responses to the recent survey and report feedback). I want to say a special thanks to Miss Wren and Mrs Sim who have been an incredible support this year. They have kept me sane during Lockdown and calmed me down when things have seemed impossible. We would not have been able to do it without their help. It is an absolute pleasure to work with this amazing team.

My final thanks go to the children. They are what we are all here for. They are the most precious aspect of our school. Before Lockdown, seeing their smiling faces each day is always the best part of my job. It has been so hard not to see them every day over Lockdown but I have loved seeing the things that they have been up to. I can't wait to see them all again in September. They are the most important people in our school.

I make special mention to our Year 6 children. We had a very emotional farewell to them yesterday. It was such a shame that we could not have the usual end of Primary School fanfare but the staff pulled out all the stops to make sure that a special fuss was made of them. They are a very special groups for me as they were the children that started in Reception in 2013 when I started. I am so proud of what they have become and how amazing they are. Yesterday was especially traumatic for me personally, as not only were this special year group leaving but my own youngest daughter was leaving her Primary School too. This meant that I was completely incapable of speaking to them or their parents/cares, I apologise for this. I hope they will always know how special they are and understand how much we adore them – go out and be fabulous children!

I hope everyone received the September reopening plan yesterday. Please don't worry if it is all confusing, we will be on hand to support you in September. There are a couple of things that I want to clarify: all children must bring a named water bottle to school, filled with water; it is also mentioned that a new cleaner will be appointed, this post will be advertised on the Jobs North East site over the holidays.

We are so looking forward to seeing everyone on 3rd September but I know that the staff are all mentally, physically and emotionally on their knees. They must all have a rest now otherwise there is a serious risk of them struggling during the Autumn term which will impact on the children. I have instructed them to switch off completely, rest, spend time with their families and come back refreshed for the challenges ahead. They will not be in touch with parents/carers over the holiday, nor will they be contactable. Should you have any problems outside these times, you can always contact Newton Aycliffe, One Point hub or if necessary, the Out of Hours Club will be able to take phone calls. The Free School Meal Vouchers have been set up and if you have any issues with these Edenred have an excellent parent support line.

I heard this week that there is a local rumour that I am leaving the school. This is absolutely not true – I am going nowhere! I may be juggling two schools and Miss Wren and Mrs Sim may be stepping up into some of my roles, but I am the proud Head Teacher of Vane Road Primary School!

We are however saying a goodbye to Mrs Grant who has been a Teaching Assistant since Christmas. Mrs Grant starts her Teacher Training in September, we wish her the best of luck. Miss Young, Mr Watson and Miss Thomson have been with us for two years as Apprentice Teaching Assistants but their training is complete and so sadly they must leave. They have progressed so much during their time with us and we wish them every success in their careers.

Have an amazing Summer, stay safe, take care of yourselves and each other, be kind and we look forward to seeing you all on 3rd September!