



Lady Elizabeth Hastings' CE VA Primary School
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Dear Parents/Carers

It gives me great pleasure to write to you as the new interim Headteacher of Lady Elizabeth Hastings' Primary School and I am looking forward to getting to know the children, staff and yourselves over the coming academic year.

It has been a lovely first week to be in school and the staff have gone above and beyond to make the last week memorable for the children. Despite the heat, we have enjoyed sports days, water fights, a 'Break the Rules Day', visits to the new wonderful garden area, lots of fantastic singing just to name a few things! The children have also had chance to meet with their new class teachers. We have all been very saddened that Class 1 have had their week in school cut short with the closure of their bubble, but we look forward to seeing them in September and ensuring we make up for the events they have missed.

The current staff has been invaluable during our handover, providing the new teachers with much of the knowledge needed for a very successful transition. I want to thank all the members of staff moving on for their contribution to Lady Elizabeth Hastings' and wish them every success for the future.

My focus as Headteacher will be to support the staff, parents and children in every way I can to ensure that all our children enjoy the best possible opportunities and ensure they are happy and succeed. We have a new, but very enthusiastic, teaching team coming in who will continue to be supported by our dedicated and talented TAs. The staff will be working hard to ensure that our school continues to achieve good outcomes for all our pupils whilst building on every child's interests and strengths and developing their individual talents so that every child can shine in their own unique way.

This year, as you will be aware, has brought many challenges to every school. One of these has been keeping children in separate 'bubbles' which has restricted the part parents and carers have been able to play in school life. We hope that next year we will be able to operate in a much more 'normal' way including regular information and celebration events, for which you are able to join us. We will of course be reviewing arrangements at the end of the summer holidays in line with Government guidelines and will update you with any changes before your child returns on the 7th September.

I know the new staff want to get to know as many of you as possible in the first few weeks so we will be making ourselves as available as possible in the playground before and after school. Please do come and say hello.

If your child would like to send their class teacher or myself a post card or photograph over the holidays we would be delighted to hear about your summer adventures whether this on a holiday, a special day out or activities at home. Either post to school or bring it on the first day back. We will enjoy sharing the children's news and I am sure it will help in getting to know everyone.

Few words from Mr Smith

Well, what a rollercoaster of a year we have had! It's certainly been challenging: class bubbles separating children from friends; homes being turned into classrooms as we lived through the 'joys' of remote learning and the general uncertainty caused by the pandemic. Never in my career had I imagined that I would be holding video calls and recording lessons from my kitchen table! It's not been easy for anyone but everyone has done their utmost to make the best an incredibly difficult situation.

It's looking like schools will be able to return to some form of normality in September which will be wonderful for all and children and staff. Hopefully class bubbles will be a thing of the past and children will be able to enjoy being together without restrictions.

Thank you to all the children and their families for your patience, understanding and adaptability over the past year.

LEH runs the Euros

I had promised in a previous newsletter that we would be able to provide the final distance that the children have run in the LEH Runs the Euros challenge. The children took on the challenge wholeheartedly and in total the ran 13292 laps which is equal to approximately 830 miles and it takes the children well past the 684 miles needed to get to Munich and well on the way to Budapest! Well done to everybody on an amazing effort!

Last week of term

The children have had a fun-packed final week of the term, including water fights, break the rules day and a visit of an ice cream van. They have also been able to spend some time in the school garden, playing in the mud kitchen, building dens and investigating the wildlife found there. Leavers' assembly was different to usual but was packed with the wonderful memories from the Y6 children's time at school.

A huge thank you to the friends of the School for organising the break the rules day and the ice cream van visit. These are the type of events that stay in children's memories for years to come and make being at LEH so special for the children.

Thank you and goodbye.

After six years as Deputy Headteacher, this is my final week working at LEH. Whilst I am excited about the challenges that lay ahead of me, I will always be grateful that I have been part of the LEH family – and family is the perfect word to describe the school.

Firstly, thank you to all the staff, both past and present, that I have had the absolute pleasure of working with. It has been a joy to work with such talented and dedicated people who are

always ready to do their very best for the children. I am incredibly lucky who I have been able to call colleagues, but more importantly friends.

Thank you also to all the parents and carers of LEH. The kind words of thanks and best wishes for my new role are very much appreciated. The support you give to the school is invaluable and will continue to be so in the future.

Finally, and most importantly, a word or two about the children. Quite simply, they are brilliant. They work so hard, are so eager to learn and never shy away from a challenge. The energy and enthusiasm that they bring to school each and every day is inspirational and has often kept me going through trickier times. They have brought me so much joy through my time here: to see them work hard, to learn and grow every day and know that I have played a part in that has been such a privilege.

To the children of LEH, thank you so much. You make our school the special place it is. I am sure that you will continue to be completely and utterly fantastic. The new teachers will soon see how wonderful and talented you all are and I hope you are able to bring just as much joy to them as you have to me.

To the Year 6 children, good luck at your secondary schools (not that any of you will need it). You can go their full of confidence that you are ready for the challenges and opportunities that the coming years will bring.

Huge love to you all,

Mike Smith

Few words from Miss Smith

I'd like to thank all of the staff, children and their families for welcoming me to LEH and making my time here so wonderful. It's been a very strange start to teaching, but I've felt so supported and I wouldn't change my time here for the world. Parents, thank you so much for allowing me to teach your incredible children. Each and every one of them is unique and has been an absolute delight to spend time with. I'm really going to miss them dearly.

I hope you all have a lovely summer!

Miss V Smith

Finally, we wish our Year 6 children every success in the future and hope they are leaving school not only fully prepared for the next stage of their education but with many happy memories from their time at Lady Hastings.

I hope you have a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing you all in September!

Best wishes,

Mrs Dunn