



Cliddesden Primary School  
Headteacher's Newsletter  
Summer 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Issue 6  
23 July 2021



Dear parents and members of the school community

The end of term has finally come. Today we say goodbye to another Year 6 cohort and wish them well for their next step in life. This week we were able to have an outdoor graduation assembly for the Year 6 children and their parents, and a picnic on Tuesday evening. The children all had an exhausting but fun day out at The Gordon Brown Centre on Wednesday.

We will miss this fantastic group of children who throughout their time at Cliddesden have remained great role models and pupils to be very proud of.

I look back on a particularly challenging academic year for all our school community. September brought the **full** reopening of school and with it a very differently organised system in school. The children all adapted to the changes ever so quickly and carried on being the fantastic learners that they are.

As Christmas approached things got more complex and worrying for everybody but we soldiered on in the uncertainty of what the spring term would be like. The January lockdown was announced and again the school 'closed'. I use this term in inverted commas as we didn't close. The children of key workers and those deemed vulnerable



still attended and we had about 25% of the children on a daily basis, some attending full time and others on certain days.

The other children engaged in their learning at home and the teachers took on planning for blended learning, teaching at school and preparing on line lessons. We all found Google Classroom very useful and for most children it worked well. You as parents were fantastic in helping and encouraging your children to work at home. We all know how challenging this can be.

We have had a very productive late spring and full summer term and even though so many restrictions are still in place, we have managed to have educational visits, a sports day and lots of creative learning. There are lots of Sports Day photos and two videos now on our website for you to watch. Congratulations to Hackwood House who won both Sports Day and the House Point Shield this year.

<https://www.cliddesden.hants.sch.uk/events-1/events-july-2021/sports-day-5>



I would like to thank all my staff for being fantastic over the last year and adapting their practice to meet the needs of all our children; they have gone above and beyond. I also thank our Governing Body for their work this year.

I sincerely thank you as parents for putting up with so much change and uncertainty this year but continuing to give the school your full support. We all thank you for the lovely gifts we have received at the end of term.

I am so thankful that we are one of very few schools nationwide that have not had to close any bubbles this year so far. It may in part be down to luck but I also believe that it is down to our school's meticulous planning and risk mitigation, and most of all down to you as parents being careful and keeping yourselves and your children safe. I thank you for that and hope we can continue to keep CV19 away over the summer and next term.

Last Friday I sent you an email regarding how the Department for Education are now moving the responsibility for cases of CV19 to NHS Track and Trace. However, all schools received an email from Hampshire County Council (HCC) on Monday morning that stated schools, for this week should still report cases to Hampshire Public Health, and the result is that bubbles will still be closed and go into isolation. Although we have been fortunate not to have had a case yet, cases in local schools continue to rise and many bubbles were sent home from other schools this week.

As I stated in the last newsletter the DfE have said that from September staggered starts and bubbles are no longer required. It is still our 'plan' to get back to normal but a lot can change over the summer. I hope we can go ahead with the 'plan' but while cases are still rising it is obviously a concern. The most important thing is to keep the children safe and minimise disruption to their education.

In the week before the children are due to return we will risk assess and also adhere to any HCC guidance on whether we can return back to the normal school day or whether we will have to keep bubbles in some form and staggered starts. You will receive notification on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. I know such short notice may be disruptive to some parents but again I stress that the safety of our children, staff and school community will be the priority for any decision.

We are sad to say goodbye to one of our families today. Naa-Lamle, Nana-Yaa and Yooku are moving to Chandlers Ford over the summer and starting new schools in September. I wish them and their parents all the best; we will miss them.

We also say goodbye to Mr and Mrs Sumner and Mrs Taylor who are retiring. Also to Mrs Chattell who starts a new teaching role at Sun Hill Juniors in Alresford. Last night the staff were able to have an outdoor gathering (a safe one of course!) to wish them well and to thank them for their dedicated work at Cliddesden.

It leaves me to say that I wish all the children, staff, parents and school community a safe and happy summer holiday.

*Kenneth Davies*  
*Headteacher*

To view class pages, find out about our curriculum, read all about our events in school, view your child's homework tasks, learn how to stay safe on the internet and much more please visit our school website [www.cliddesden.hants.sch.uk](http://www.cliddesden.hants.sch.uk)

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