

VANE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER – WEDNESDAY 20TH JULY 2016
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Message from Mr. Pavey

This has been another very busy year and I would like to close with a few thank you messages.

I would like to thank parents/carers for all their support throughout this year. I know from first-hand experience as a parent myself of the chaos family life is. Trying to get the children to school with the correct uniform on is only the first challenge. Homework, spellings, reading, dressing up days, fairs, sponsorship, PE kit – the list of things to remember is never ending. It often appears that we just expect these things to happen but we do appreciate how much work goes into supporting the school. We are also delighted with the amount of time parents/carers spare to come along to special events held in school. A special mention has to go to our numerous volunteer helpers who come to school to help with reading, in class support, on trips and many other activities. Without these helpers we would not be able to provide all we do at our school.

As a head teacher, I know that sometimes I am demanding of parents/carers but I am even more aware of how demanding I am of my staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each member of staff from the office who take a myriad of queries; Mr. Wilson and his team who keep our dilapidated school clean and safe; our cooks and lunchtime supervisors who cater so well for the children; the teachers, higher level teaching assistants, teaching assistants, care assistant and apprentices who strive each day to help the children to become the best versions of themselves that they can be. Finally, in this category, I would like to thank Miss Wren who has the unenviable position of being in 'both camps' but her constant and thoughtful approach to life means that I certainly could not be without her.

Mr. Patel and his team of school governors also need to be thanked for their challenge and support. They are called upon, often at the drop of a hat, to give up their time freely to help me make crucial decisions about the school. We have had many long meetings and views are often strongly expressed but there is one thing that binds us all together which is the determination to do the best we can for our children. Mr. Patel is ever present in the school. He never seems to switch off and whatever time of day I contact him, he is always there with helpful support and advice.

We have achieved a great deal together and there have been so many highlights. To name but a few: the Macmillan Coffee morning where donations of cakes far exceeded our expectations; another wonderful Lumiere event when we were visited by an enormous star on stilts; the unending list of sporting events that the school has yet again had so much success in; the Race for Life event which showed how many of our lives are affected by Cancer; the huge number of after school clubs the children access; the Summer fair when all the community came together ... the list could go on. It certainly has been a very busy year.

We have not always 'got things right'; we could always communicate better; we could always try even harder to make sure that each child is happy every day and never has negative experiences but we will endeavour to keep trying our best. What I can never fault is the school communities' desire to make Vane Road the best possible place for every child, no matter what their need, their interest, their beliefs, their race, their own personal situation. We remember that the children are the most important 'thing' in the school; we understand that the one thing that makes us all the same is that we are all unique.

We are sad to be saying good bye to a couple of members of staff: Miss Puddifoot who has been teaching Class 4 for two terms and moves on to another teaching post in the County and Mrs. Rigg who has been supporting children in Year 1 since Christmas. Both will be sadly missed by us all; I would like to thank them for their dedication to the school and wish them every success for the future.

In September, we will be joined by Mrs. Proctor who will be teaching in Class 7. Mrs. Mcguire is changing her role slightly from being a teacher to a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and will be supporting mainly in Year 4. I would like to congratulate Mr. Logan who has been training to be a teacher with us this year – he has successfully passed the course and will join us as Class 11's teacher in September. We will also be welcoming two new trainee teachers: Mr. Kelly and Miss Hindmarsh and four new Apprentice Teaching Assistants: Miss Bowker, Miss Kallaghan, Miss Trow and Mr. Turnbull all of whom will be working across the whole school. We offer a warm welcome to them all and hope they will be very happy with us.

On a final and completely trivial note, many of you will unfortunately recall that I challenged myself to learn to ride a unicycle at the beginning of the year. This was to share a learning challenge with the children and to show them that providing you work hard and that you believe in yourself, you can achieve anything. (Excuse coming...) Sadly, since Christmas I have been troubled by a hip injury (IT band or age!) which has hampered my progress. I have certainly not given up, nor have I quit, merely saying that I CAN do it but just not yet!

I am privileged in my job to work with the most wonderful staff and parents/carers but what makes this the best job in the world are the children. I want to extend my last and largest thank you to them. I am so proud of the children at our school who each day make it an absolute pleasure to come to work. They have worked really hard this year both in school and at home; they have looked after one another and treated each other with great consideration. We have had challenging days and moments but that is what children do – they challenge us. It is too easy to impose our own experiences of school onto them but the world now is very different from the world they will one day rule. Our role, as school and as parents/carers is to try to equip them with the necessary skills to make a very positive impact on the future world. Between us, I think we are doing a very good job – those of us who had the pleasure to watch the Year 6 Leavers' performance must surely agree.

Thank you everyone and I wish you all a happy, safe and fun packed Summer holiday!

Late and Devastating News

Yesterday we received the terrible news that Emily Cook, a pupil who left our school last year and is now at Woodham Academy, has been diagnosed with a terminal brain tumour. All our thoughts are with Emily and her family at this awful time. A family friend has set up a Just Giving page with the link below.

<https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/stacey-lowery-1>

Attendance

This week's attendance (w/c 18.7.16)		Our Minimum Target Is 95%
Class	Attendance %	
1	96.5%	
2	89.4%	
3	91.6%	
4	93.0%	
5	96.1%	
6	86.9%	
7	88.9%	
8	88.6%	
9	91.9%	
10	94.4%	
11	91.3%	
12	88.4%	
13	95.4%	
14	98.8%	

Well done to classes 1, 5, 13 and 14 who have all achieved attendance above our minimum target level. Special "Well done" to class 14 for attendance that was the best out of the entire school.




Dates for Your Diary

Children return to school: Tuesday 6th September
Parents meetings with new teachers: Monday 12th September 3:30pm & 4pm
Year 3 Stone age workshop: Wednesday 14th September
Homework club starts again: Friday 16th September
Year 3 Multi skills festival: Monday 19th September
Halloween Disco: Tuesday 18th October
Break up for half term: Friday 21st October
Return to school: Monday 31st October

More dates are to follow when we return to school in September.

We look forward to seeing all of the children back to school safely on Tuesday 6th September. Have a lovely summer break!