



Blewbury Endowed C of E Primary School

New Year Newsletter

9th January 2019

Dear parents and guardians

You may remember before Christmas that I told you that we had raised an amazing £500 for UNICEF gifts. This is what we bought, which totaled £505 and met the requirements of the children. I was also able to tick for Gift Aid box which should have given an extra £100 .

Together we bought from our Blewbury School Community :-

- Nursery in a box
- School in a box to help 40 children
- Large Portable Vaccine carrier to keep vaccines effective
- Large First Aid Kit for a Health Worker
- 2 sturdy Water buckets
- 3 footballs for children
- 5 story books for children
- 5,000 water purification tablets
- Loads of Soap for Health and Hygiene
- Malaria Treatment to protect children
- 2 x Pencils for 400 children
- Polio vaccines to protect 100 children

The gift cards are on display just inside the front foyer of the school or you can find out more by going to <https://market.unicef.org.uk/inspired-gifts/> and scrolling down to find out more details about each gift.

My second piece of news is somewhat more personal.

After a great deal of consideration I have decided that it is time to take retirement at Easter from the profession that I have loved and pursued for over 44 years. Most especially 22 of these years have been as the serving headteacher of Blewbury School and giving up something that I love so much was perhaps the hardest part of the decision.

Yes I will enjoy the freedom to travel a little more and to try out some new and old crafts, redecorate the house and do the garden but that won't really make up for the daily interactions with the children or the conversations with yourselves.

You often see comments in the press about teaching and it's pressures and although some of this can be true it is also a most privileged profession where you can make a difference, sometimes in very small ways and occasionally in quite a profound way. I can genuinely say that I have never had a day at work in all these years when I am bored, how could you be with the dynamics of the interactions that are taking place all the time, with the necessity to constantly make instant decisions as well planning for future events. As a headteacher there is always a to do list, as you can guarantee that the one you wrote is superseded due to a discussion with a parent, a phone call or the email offering an opportunity that you know you must pursue.

I have been able to work with some amazing teachers and school staff who together as a team provide for your children. Many PTAs who all work so hard to provide extra resources for the pupils and groups of Governors all of whom are volunteers.

Seeing children write amazingly in Year 6 or strive to solve a complex Maths problem, produce a wonderful piece of art or succeed in a sport are among the things I have really enjoyed but also being able to develop in pupils a life long attitude to learning and a development and understanding of themselves has been so rewarding.

Those of you with children in Key Stage 2 will know of my absolute passion for children taking part in residential experiences which help them develop as people, develop resilience, support problem solving, risk taking and independence. Many of you will have noticed how much they grow up over that week away and also get to know that they can walk quite a long way and carry their own things!!! Amusingly to me the government are about to publish a list of things children should do at Primary School and you won't be surprised to know that most of our pupils have been doing this for several years. Thank you for your support with this aspect of our curriculum .

The other area I have been very privileged to have been able to share with many children is our focus on International Awareness and looking globally at our lives. We have been so fortunate to have received money for the last 18 or so years to enable pupils and teachers to travel to both European schools and to Uganda. These first hand experiences have expanded and enhanced our curriculum in so many ways and really helped our pupils to develop their global citizenship with knowledge and awareness. At the last count it was about 130 pupils who had travelled to Europe over the years. As a school we should feel very proud of this area of our success and the fact that it has been recognised by achieving the International School Award, seven times.

I know that the governors will be writing to you to explain a little about what happens next but I wanted to finish this newsletter with a couple of assurances.

Firstly the residential visits planned for this year, the cost will be on Parentmail in the next few days will happen and next year's Kingswood is booked. Just so I don't get bored I have made myself available for these if needed!

Secondly I wrote to classes 4, 5 and 6 about our Erasmus visitors in March and the visits to Spain, this May and Germany and Holland next year. The governors have agreed that I will still be enabled to coordinate these and the project until it finishes in 2020, so all arrangements described are still applicable.

I am telling the children in assembly today and would like to finish with an apology that some of you found out at church when an announcement was made without my prior knowledge, I'm really sorry as this news should have come directly from myself.

Thank you for all your support, I'm obviously around all this term and won't stop working to my full capacity until the end of term.

Yours sincerely



Marion Mills