

17.7.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of the school year and it has been an eventful one! When I started at Buckfastleigh in September last year, I could never have envisaged the year ahead. Thinking back to before the lockdown, there have been so many highlights I look back on with fond memories. Our Harvest service in October was our first whole school event and it set the tone for the rest of the year with lovely singing from the children. This was surpassed at Christmas when the singing led by Mr Roberts and Ms Kellman was amazing.

It was brilliant to see so many parents in school this year. To begin with, we changed the drop off arrangements in school and I hope this made you feel welcome. Many of you also came along at the end of Farmvention week and saw some impressive learning which the children had done over that week ...and of course we can't forget the wonderful Infant Nativity which everyone enjoys!

We had visitors into school during the year including our athlete visit, environmental awareness, the space dome, a paramedic, the fire service and even the Queen visited Year 1! All these contributed to some rich and exciting learning for the children.

More importantly, we have a number of volunteers who come into school on a regular basis to help out and support children in their learning. We would like to say a special thank you to Colin, John, Ann, Maggie and Nic (in the kitchen) for the time they have put in over the course of the year. You make a big difference and we really appreciate it. Unfortunately, John G will not be continuing as a volunteer next year. He has made a massive contribution over the years to the life of the school and we would like to wish him well and say please pop and see us in the Autumn.

A number of our staff are leaving at the end of this term. I would like to thank them for their hard work and enthusiasm over the last year and the super job they have done to support the children both during term time and also over the lockdown period.

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- Sam McCarthy has worked tirelessly in Year 6 this year and put in a lot of effort to ensure that the Year 6 children got the best possible send off this week.
- Suzie Kendall has led our Eco-Council brilliantly and organised some exciting learning for her Year 3 class including an amazing Greek themed day in the Spring.
- Shelley Micklewright has been our enthusiastic science coordinator. Judging from many parent comments, I know you have appreciated her nurturing approach in Year 1.
- Nicole Willis has stepped in to support in Year 4 since Christmas and built some fantastic relationships with the children. Their Warrior day was fantastic!

...and last but not least, I must mention Craig Irons. It is sad that he is a face we haven't seen at school since the Autumn term. I'm sure he has been in many of your thoughts since that time. Craig has always been a very popular teacher at Buckfastleigh and I am sure many of the older children have fond memories of when he taught them. Craig has taught at Buckfastleigh for an incredible 15 years and had become a part of the furniture. This amazing contribution can't be taken for granted at a time when many people don't stay in the same job for a very long time. We thank him for everything he has done for the school and wish him well on the next step in life's path.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a wonderful summer holiday and thank you for the support you have given me and the school over the course of this year. We have appreciated all your feedback as it helps us to achieve our goal of the best possible school for the children of the Buckfastleigh community. We are really looking forward to having all the children back in school in 6 weeks time and can't wait to see you all then.

Have a great summer holiday, take care and above all, have fun!

Best wishes

Eddie Brown

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