

22.7.22

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing this final newsletter reflecting back on what has been almost the first normal year at school for 3 years. It has been wonderful enjoying whole school events for the first time in such a long time and seeing the children flourish. We started the year with an acknowledgement from OFSTED about the progress we have made and the school has continued to move forward since then. The constant through this whole period has been the hard work and enthusiasm of the children and the support we get from all of you.

Next September will be the first academic year when we have the same teachers in the school since well before I became Headteacher. The continuity and consistency this brings cannot be taken for granted and I can't wait to hit the ground running in September with staff that know the children inside out and are totally committed to the school and the community. Over the coming 12 months, we will continue to develop our aspirational curriculum, utilising more of the resources on our doorstep such as Buckfast Abbey, the River Dart, the railway and the local woodlands like Henbury. On top of this, events such as the Harvest service and Carol service will be back on the timetable and the children will be going out on more trips and residential. There is so much to look forward to!

I would like to say a big thank you to every member of our team for their total commitment to the school over the last 12 months. Alongside them are a bank of valuable volunteers. These range from family members who come in to read with the children to those parents who have helped out on school trips or with swimming. In the background are our school governors. Malcolm Cowper and the team have put in a great deal of time behind the scenes and have continued to help me with advice and support at regular meetings and visits.

On the subject of Malcolm, he has decided after 6 years as Chair of Governors to step down. He has been a rock to me and the school over a difficult period of transition and is leaving at a time that sees the school much improved and in a strong position to move forward. As a volunteer, he has put in hours of work to support the school and I'd like to send him a big thank you as I'm sure you would too. Without volunteers such as him, the school would not be what it is today and have such positive links with the community.

Last but not least are the FOBS team. It has been brilliant having more events on again such as the discos and the fayre. On Friday, we raised an amazing £360 at the disco with a further £52 on uniform sales. FOBS also received a donation of £250 linked to our fundraising during the summer fayre. Two members of the team are moving on at the end of the year. I would like to say a big thank you to Zoe and Beth for all their help since I started at Buckfastleigh and a big thank to the whole FOBS team for everything you do.

Year 6 Leavers Assembly

Today, we said goodbye to our Year 6 children. They have been amazing over many years and we will miss them all. This week, they went on a trip to Spitchwick for a picnic and they thoroughly enjoyed splashing around in the river Dart and the pure excitement of spotting a couple of eels in the shallows. It was a pleasure to spend the day with them and it shows how special our children are that so many members of the public commented on how wonderful they were. All the staff that went were very proud of them.

SAFE, RESPECTED AND READY TO STEP OUT INTO THE WORLD

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Creative

Sustainability

Curious

Empowered

Reading Challenge

Don't forget to take part in our Summer reading challenge. Every child that reads at least 6 books and completes an Accelerated Reader quiz to go with them will win a trip to the park and an ice cream in September. If the children combine this with the library challenge, they will also win a medal from the library which will be given out in assembly (they don't have to read two lots of 6 books to win both – but they can if they want to!!)

Term Dates and the Return to School

I would like to confirm that the children return to school on Monday 5th September. The top gate will be opened at 8:35am as normal.

School Lunches

Don't forget to order your school lunches for the start of the school year on Parent Pay. Orders for the first week back must be on Parent pay by Thursday 1st September.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday with your families,

Best wishes and take care from,

Eddie Brown and the whole team at Buckfastleigh Primary School

...to finish off, here are a few of the lovely pictures we took of the children on our recent Year 6 residential to Grenville House...

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