

26.7.23

Farewell from Mr Brown

Dear Parents and Carers,

My time as Headteacher at Buckfastleigh Primary is coming to a close and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the past four years. It has been an amazing time for me and I feel incredibly proud and honoured to have led the school through this period. During all the challenges that have come along, I have been consistently amazed by the resilience and positivity of your children. They are wonderful and a credit to all of you. Buckfastleigh is a fantastic school and community and one that deserves the absolute best.

Over the last four years, there have been many highlights including our residential trips to Grenville House and Bristol, sports days, fayres, Harvest festivals, carol concerts, KS2 plays and fundraising events such as when we raised almost £2000 for charity and all the staff got cream thrown in their faces as a reward! The thing that really sticks in my mind though is the everyday progress that the children and the school have made over the last 4 years. There is nothing that puts a smile on the face of every member of the team more than when an individual achieves something they could not do before. That is why we work at Buckfastleigh Primary School and why we want all children to achieve their best, feel safe and be ready for the next stage in life's journey.

Over the last 3 months, I have been working closely with Laurie Archer to ensure the best possible transition for the school in September. Every member of the team is conscious of the enormous progress the school has made over the last 4 years and I am confident that Laurie is ready to take that forward and be a brilliant headteacher for Buckfastleigh Primary School.

It only remains for me to say thank you once again for all your support. It has been an amazing privilege to lead the school and I shall greatly miss our superb students, the great staff team and all of you who I see on a daily basis at school. Everyone contributes together to make a fantastic school community.

Wishing you well for the future and hope you have a lovely summer.

Eddie

Further Thanks and Farewells

I am sure you are all aware that a number of staff are leaving us this year. Last week, we wished a fond farewell to Sam Roberts, Sarah Strong and Dan Wase. They will be sorely missed by the school as they move onto the next stage in their careers. I would like to thank them for their support, positivity and hard work over the last 4 years.

Alongside them, I would like to say thank you to Donna McJury, our previous kitchen manager. Donna has not been at Buckfastleigh for a while due to illness and earlier this year, she decided to retire from her role after over 15 years of service to the school. Like me, I'm sure you would like to thank her for her contribution to the school and all the delicious lunches she has prepared for the children – there must have been tens of thousands!

SAFE, RESPECTED AND READY TO STEP OUT INTO THE WORLD

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Sustainability

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Janet Richards has also retired this year after many years working at Buckfastleigh. Janet was one of our school cleaners who worked tirelessly in the background ensuring the school was clean and ready for the children. We are sad to see Janet leave but wish her well for the future and thank her for everything she has done for the school.

Fundraising is an important part of the yearly calendar at Buckfastleigh and our FOBS team play a very important part in that. I would like to say a big thank you to Fleur, Vicky, Mike and the team for everything they have done to help raise money for the school and make sure the children have lots of fun in the process. This year, we have raised an amazing £1686 that will go forward to supporting the children in the coming year. This was from:

- Christmas Fair - £310.40
- Spring Disco - £386.91
- Summer Fair - £454.66
- Summer Disco - £408.59
- Uniform Donations - £91.50
- Lolly Sales to date - £34.90

I must say a big thank you to all our volunteers including Colin, Di and Sandy who come into school regularly to listen to readers. You all make a massive difference whether it is working with children, supporting with odd jobs around school or helping in our garden. Thank you to every one of you for the work that you have done.

School Games Gold Award

I need to announce that this year, the school been recognised for it's work in developing fit and healthy children by receiving the School Games Gold Award. This is a national award linked to sport that Dan Wase has led on this year. It can only be achieved if there are lots of opportunities for the children to participate in physical activity and sport. This year, these have included:

- Providing a broad curriculum in Physical Education across all Year Groups.
- Designed a new curriculum focussing on motor competence, rules, strategies and tactics and healthy participation.
- Attending and running a combined total of 35 events.
- Initiating our young Play Leaders programme which will see huge development next year.
- Investing in technology and equipment to enhance lesson content for all year groups.
- Utilising coaching from a range of providers to promote excellent practice.
- Providing 9 different sports clubs over the academic year.
- Swimming safety lessons to all pupils in Years 1-6.

With a huge amount of young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.

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Goodbye to Year 6

...and finally, I would like to say goodbye to our Year 6 class. We all wish you well for the future and hope you *'set no limits on what you can achieve and have a positive attitude to life'*.

Take care everyone and have a fantastic holiday.



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