

11/1/19

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this finds you all happy and well and ready for a great new year!

Thank you all for making me so welcome this week, it was wonderful to be able to meet so many of you on Wednesday evening. I very much hope that those of you who were unable to come along to the meeting will contact the school to arrange a time that suits you so that we can have chance to get to know each other.

As you know I had been visiting Year six for a number of weeks prior to taking up the Year 6 class teacher post this week and was able to start getting to know the children before I began fulltime.

I couldn't wait to start working together with Mrs Lloyd, Mrs Tomkinson and Mrs Woodhead to teach your children. The teaching assistants in Aberdeen class are all highly experienced and talented and I am pleased to say they were happy to get into the spirit of our special WW2 Topic Day on Tuesday. They even dressed up as *land-girls!* Their knowledge of the children, the school and of course the primary curriculum is invaluable and they contributed hugely to the planning, resourcing and teaching of our special Topic day. We were also very pleased to have Mrs Belinda Martin working alongside us and her enthusiasm for both cookery and the protection of the environment was very inspiring for the children. The children were able to make tasty *carrot cookies* using WW2 recipes, which a number of parents tried during Wednesday night's parent's evening.

We were exceptionally lucky to have further volunteer support from John and Colin throughout the day and then of course we benefitted from the incredible generosity and expertise of Max Harmes-Lock's Dad Shane and Grandad Colin who kindly spent most of the day standing outside in the cold sharing their incredible collection of WW2 vehicles and artefacts. The children thoroughly enjoyed the unique learning opportunity that this provided. A big thank you too goes to the fire station team for allowing us to use their forecourt all day as well.

On Tuesday, the class also spent time creating their own drama based around World War Two scenarios involving the lives of real people and the challenges they faced through rationing, conscription and air raids. I was delighted by the creativity and enthusiasm that the children showed. (I think many parents were surprised by the confidence their children showed when they saw the videos on Wednesday evening).

So, the Spring term has started in a really positive way for Year 6 and the children have shown that they are keen to learn and ready to focus on achieving their best. Over the next two terms we aim to provide every possible form of support for the children in Year 6 and this will include some extra booster sessions during, before and after school. We will be running small group sessions over the next two terms and children will take turns to benefit from this extra support. We will also be sending extra information home over the next two terms to enable you to be able to help your children with their home learning and SATs preparation.

I will be sending a note home every week and posting on the class webpage too and I really hope that you find the information I include helpful.

Please don't hesitate to contact me either after school or via the school office and I hope that you all have a great weekend.

Kind regards

*S.J.McCarthy-Patmore*