16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the school year draws to a close, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support during what has been a most challenging year for pupils, parents and staff. Despite the many barriers we have faced, I think I speak for everyone when I say that we have remained positive and pulled together as a whole school community so that the children could experience the best possible year.

It was unfortunate that this week we experienced disruption to classes which has led to the rearranging of many of the planned end of term events. This was particularly disappointing for Year 6 children who leave us today after seven years in primary school. Our plans for a celebration pizza picnic on Thursday, and for hosting the leavers' service in Edenfield Parish Church, had to be cancelled much to our dismay.

However, first and foremost, our thoughts must go to staff members who are now poorly and we wish them a very speedy recovery.

Fortunately, they were in school on Tuesday to perform the production of Alice in Wonderland which was professionally filmed so we could distribute the DVD. **Alice the Musical** is a brilliant musical production based on Lewis Carroll's timeless classic Alice in Wonderland which incorporates a creative combination of song and dance and narrative.

Mr Holt was very proud of the way the children invested so much time and energy into putting on the performance of their lives, even though they were unable to perform it for a live audience. He has spoken highly of the way the children acted, sang and danced their socks off – even the children who usually shy away from putting themselves in the spotlight embraced their roles with gusto.





This afternoon, we hosted the leavers' service via Microsoft Teams and although it was not the same as all being together, we were definitely able to celebrate the achievements of the children, and all of their special memories. We spoke of their resilience and determination as they have battled through many obstacles during this challenging year. They continued to work to the best of their ability during lockdown, when their maturity shone through, during live lessons on Google Classroom. They have been deprived of many of the usual Year 6 privileges such as certain monitor jobs and being proper buddies to their reception friends. Despite this, I have never heard them complain and they continued to aim high over the course of the year achieving fantastic results across the curriculum.

We were so glad they had the opportunity to go on the PGL holiday where they were fantastic ambassadors for the school and had lots of fun in the process.

As well as the play, the children worked with Mr Holt to create a short film which we were able to watch and enjoy as part of the service. This is a wonderful memory for the children to download at home and enjoy. I think the staff will also watch it several times over!

We are very proud of each and every one of them and we found it very difficult to say goodbye to them today. They are a credit to you, their parents, and we will miss each and every one of them.

This morning we also bade farewell to Mr Lindo who is leaving as Miss Scotland returns from her maternity leave. Mr Lindo trained to be a teacher here in school so has actually been part of the team for three years. Staff and pupils spoke fondly of their memories of working with him and praised his kind nature, adaptability, his willingness to help others and his enthusiasm – not to mention his fear of creepy crawlies!! The children have loved being taught by him and expressed how much they are going to miss him. They performed a song to the tune of *Three Lions* as Mr Lindo is a BIG football fan. We presented him with a variety of gifts (virtually) and these will be delivered by Miss Greenhalgh next week. I know you will join me in wishing him every success in his next teaching role – we will miss you Mr Lindo!

To end the year we pray:

Dear God

Let us pray for those leaving school at the end of this year. For pupils, teachers, helpers; for their new schools, new friends, and new activities; and for their wellbeing,

Let us pray to the Lord: Please provide help and guidance for our children in the new school year, and for continuing growth in faith and hope and love.

God of Wisdom,
We thank you for all the gifts you have given us throughout this school year.
We praise you for giving us life, for saving us in Christ, and for choosing us to be your people.
As we come to the end of this school year,
We voice our gratitude for the good things you have done in us,
And we praise you for all who have shared in the work of this school.
We ask you to bless them in your love and give them refreshment and peace.
We praise you, God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

As we prepare to step out into a new place in our lives, the Lord God Almighty is with us; he loves us and tenderly cares for us. So let's go forward in his love, remembering God is with us wherever we are.
Wherever we are, God is with us.
Amen

Have a wonderful summer holiday and a lovely, long rest. I look forward to another happy and successful year, hopefully with far less disruption, and to seeing you all on **Thursday 2nd September**.

Warm wishes,

C. L. Garner