



DUCKLINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tel. (01993) 703651 Website: <https://ducklington.oxon.sch.uk/>

Headteacher: Mr R. Leigh Chair of Governors: Mrs S Varnom

Friday 19th July 2021

Headteacher's Thoughts

We have reached the end of another academic year, which has, like the previous year, certainly been a challenge for everyone around the country. It was with a heavy heart that I had to isolate the Year 6 bubble at the end of last Friday following a positive case as the Year 6s were so close to the end. As I am not able to do this in person, I wish the Year 6 children well in their new schools from September and for their future and I am thankful that we were able to have our Leavers Assembly last week. Hopefully, they will pop back during their Year 7 to tell us how they are getting on.

Like the Year 6 children, there are others we need to say a fond farewell – firstly thank you to Mrs King, who is moving on to a new role in September – I would like to extend that by thanking her for her support during my first year as part of the leadership team – which has been invaluable. Farewell and thank you to Mrs Manion for help in Year 5 this year (she will still be around for After School club). Thank you to Mrs Varnom (Chair of Governors) and Mrs Boddam-Whetham, who are leaving the Governors at the end of this academic year. We also wish Rev Paul, a happy retirement as he leaves St Bartholomews. Due to a change in the running of our breakfast club, we say thank you to Mel Hornsby for her hard work in the kitchen. Finally, we say goodbye to Mrs Freegard (Lolly), who after 37 years hangs up her lollipop today following her amazing service to the school – we wish her well particularly at this difficult time.

What a first year it has been for me since joining Ducklington Primary School in September – I would like to thank the staff, governors, parents and the children for their hard work, perseverance and dedication and I look forward to September to continue our adventures.

Thinking ahead to September, it is difficult to predict what guidance or restrictions will be available for schools. As we know the bubble system and the need for certain isolation is being removed, therefore we may be able to begin to return to some of the elements of school that we have missed. As I did for this year, I will communicate during the final week of the holidays with the final details for the new term. I can say that the build up to our normal procedures will be brought in gradually to ensure that the school community remains safe. There will some points that will stay the same:

- The morning gate and end of day routines will continue as this year, although the timings may change
- Reduced numbers initially for break/lunchtimes on playgrounds

Have a great summer holiday, please look after yourselves and keep safe and I look forward to seeing you again on Thursday 2nd September.

Mr. Leigh

Future Diary Dates.

Wednesday 1st September – INSET day

Thursday 2nd September – Autumn Term starts