



HARNHAM INFANT SCHOOL

Saxon Road, Harnham, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 8JZ

Telephone: 01722 327338

Email: admin@harnham-inf.wilts.sch.uk Website: www.harnhaminfants.org.uk

Headteacher: Miss Natasha Dorrington

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Laura Pike

Saturday 25th July 2021

Dear Families,

We made it to the end of the academic year! At times, I was not sure that we would be able to stay open until Thursday but we did and I am so grateful that we managed to avoid remote learning.

When this academic year started, I was full of optimism that this year would feel more 'normal', and for the majority of the autumn term, it did feel that way. Unfortunately, the new calendar year brought another lockdown and we were quickly thrown into remote learning. Once again, the whole community pulled together and within 24 hours, key worker children were in school and online learning, via Seesaw, had started up once again. The Harnham community were able to give the children the best possible experience under some challenging circumstances.

I would like to thank the Senior Leadership team; Mrs Pike, Mrs Sowerby and Mrs Ainley who stayed in school with me after the Prime Minister's announcement to ensure that we were able to safely re-open the school as soon as possible. This was not a one off occasion; they are always going the extra mile to ensure that Harnham Infant school is always improving and striving to provide your children with the best possible education. I would like to thank them for their support, encouragement and sharing my drive, determination and vision for the school.

Once again, the whole of the Harnham Infant school team have worked so hard to improve the school even further. The 'buzz' around school is energising and visitors to the school often comment on how welcome the staff and children make them feel.

Some of my non-teaching friends sometimes make the mistake, around June time, to say to me 'oh you must be winding down soon, getting ready for your 6 week break'. They soon receive a short lecture about how that is certainly not the case! Every single member of staff at Harnham Infant school is committed to going above and beyond for the benefit of the children. This has been demonstrated this week with 3 teachers, 1 teaching assistant and 1 member of the admin team all self-isolating. Not once during this time did anybody ask to cancel an event or moan because they were having to cover extra duties and responsibilities. The whole team pulled together and the 'bump up days', dojo treats, beach party and end of year celebrations all took place – thank you to the team for their dedication to the children.

Each year I write a School Development Plan, which is always ambitious but also important to continue moving the school forward and striving for the best. I am sure that at times my colleagues feel that I am never happy, but once again throughout this academic year, they have risen to my high expectations and nearly every objective on the development plan was achieved. I am immensely proud of the whole team at Harnham Infant School and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their support.



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As a team, we would like to thank you, our wonderful parents. We recognise that many of our families have been juggling many roles and we are very grateful. We thank you for supporting your children during these times and for supporting us too. Our aim is to make our school community a family and we truly hope that you have felt part of the Harnham Infant School family this year.

The whole school has been so well supported by the Governing Body. Their support, guidance, challenge and their listening ear has been so appreciated. It has been a difficult time for the Governors, as they enjoy being in school with us, seeing the children in action and experiencing the 'Harnham Infant School' way, but due to covid, this has not been possible. They have continued to work hard for the school in a remote capacity but we are so looking forward to seeing them in school more next academic year. I would like to personally thank the Governors for their continued attention in ensuring that staff wellbeing is always considered.

Sadly, the end of an academic year sometimes means we need to say some goodbyes. We have 3 colleagues who are leaving us today to move on to new positions and opportunities...

Mrs Thom has been with us since starting out as an NQT. During her time with us, Ellie has had numerous roles in our school, including Year 1 leader, Rights Respecting School leader and most recently RE leader as well as being an incredibly passionate, fun and engaging class teacher too. We have also seen her go from being Miss Sillett to Mrs Thom and further increase her family with the birth of Freddie and Dotty. Having been with us for 8 wonderful years, Mrs Thom felt it was time to move on to another school and we wish her well in her new position – her new school is very lucky to have her and of course, her amazing fancy dress skills!

Mrs Ferris will also be leaving us at the end of the summer. Mrs Ferris has been such an important part of the staff team; she has made such a positive impact on so many children in her care. We will miss her organisational skills and determination to see children experience success in their early years. Mrs Ferris is having a change of career and is joining a local jewellers. Whilst we are so sad to see her go, we would like to wish her the best of luck for the future and with her upcoming marriage in April.

Mrs Kingsley-Smith is also leaving us this summer to start an MA in social work. Mrs Kingsley-Smith has worked at the school as a teaching assistant, mainly in a 1:1 capacity. She has such a positive outlook on life, loves to take on a challenge and her bubbly personality is infectious. We would like to wish her the best of luck with her studies, where we know she will be a resounding success – our colleagues in the social work profession will be very lucky to have her.

Now, to our Year 2 children. This cohort will always have a very special place in my heart as they have been the first cohort to start and finish during my time as Headteacher. I am so very proud of each and every one of them. When I stood and watched them perform the Lion King last week, I was amazed! Not only were they enjoying every minute of it, but observing the parents watch their children perform was especially heart-warming. By the third performance I was able to hold myself together a bit more but I was overcome with emotion as I reflected on their time with us. I thank the Year 2 cohort for being kind, respectful, resilient, creative, active and independent



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learners. These are the values of our school and I am in awe of the wonderful members of the Harnham Infant School family that they have become. I hope that they look back of their time here with fondness and remember to; 'reach for the stars, because you can achieve anything that you want to with your life'.

I am so very honoured to be Headteacher of this wonderful school. I love coming to school each day and making a difference to the Harnham community. I would like to thank you for the very positive feedback that we received from parents from the questionnaire that we recently sent out, as well as some lovely letters and messages in cards I have received. I would like to thank you for taking the time to do this, it really means a lot to me.

Whilst I do not want to wish the summer holidays away, like many other, I am in need of a break and to spend some quality time with my own children. I am very much looking forward to next academic year and developing the school even further. We have many exciting opportunities that we are embracing including a project called 'Achievement for All'. We also hope to become a 'No Outsiders' school, as well as continue to develop our school values and culture for the children and staff. We will share more details of these projects and many other aspects of the new School Development Plan in September.

We will also be having an additional new member join the Harnham Infant school team next academic year. He is male, has four legs, his fur is a red fox colour, he is from the Labrador family and he has a wagging tail. I am excited to announce that we are getting a school dog! All being well, he will join us in September too!



It just remains for me to say have a wonderful and well deserved break over the summer. I look forward to welcoming you back to school in September.

With best wishes,

Miss Natasha Dorrington



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