



Highwood Primary School

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Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential

Cathy Cox – Head Teacher

Thursday 16th July 2020

End of Term Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of what has been a unique Summer Term, I am writing to you all to wish everyone associated with Highwood Primary School goodbye and best wishes for the future. Since I took up my post as Deputy Head, 7 years ago in 2013, Highwood has been through a series of very challenging events but has always remained a wonderful place to work.

My promotion to Headteacher was inevitably a bittersweet one as it came following the untimely death of the previous Headteacher, Mrs Della Allen in June 2017. This tragedy came on top of the Highwood flood in June 2016 and the substantial building works that were necessary in order to restore the building and grounds to their former glory. The grading of 'Good' from OFSTED in November 2017 was a brilliant achievement for the school and provided a much needed morale boost for the staff team, allowing us to move forwards and get back to continuing to develop and enhance the full and rich curriculum that the children deserve.

I cannot praise the staff team highly enough for their commitment, resilience and dedication throughout everything that has come their way – we have all seen these qualities shine out once again over the past few months during the COVID-19 pandemic. As soon as it became clear that the school would have to partially close back in March, the staff pulled together to provide really high quality Home Learning through Google Classroom for the majority of children who had to stay at home, whilst simultaneously running a very successful in-school provision for the children of Key Workers and groups identified by the Department for Education.

During a virtual meeting to discuss the school's provision and curriculum, our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner recently commented that the children of Highwood are really lucky that this is their school. I am in complete agreement with her; the Senior Leadership Team, the teachers, teaching assistants, Inclusion Team, Office Team and Site Team all work together tirelessly to ensure that every child is cared for both emotionally and academically so that they can thrive, learn and grow during their time at the school.

I would also like to thank the governors at Highwood for supporting me, particularly over the last 3 years. The role of School Governor is a voluntary one and so requires commitment and a desire to ensure that the school provides the best possible education for the pupils. Highwood's governors have done this and I know they will continue to do so.



September will be a challenging time for schools everywhere but I believe that Highwood is in a very good place to continue to provide successfully for its community. Mrs Harte and Ms Green are both highly skilled and committed professionals who will lead the school through the next steps together.

It has always been a privilege to work in education and to see children developing, growing and making lasting memories to take with them into the future. I feel very fortunate to have spent the last seven years of my career at Highwood Primary School and will be taking away many lasting memories from my time here!

Finally, thank you to everyone who engaged with the final learning theme of the year and the only way we could do anything resembling a Sports Event this Summer! All of the House Points gained by children at home and at school have been tallied up and I am pleased to announce that the winners are: **Fire** with a grand total of **239** points! Air came second with 176, Water earned 166 and Earth finished with 135 points.

The staff at Highwood are looking forward to seeing everyone on **Thursday September 3rd** when school reopens for the Autumn Term.

Best wishes to you all,

Cathy Cox
Head Teacher