



Greenfields Federation Newsletter Littlehaven Infant and Northolmes Junior Schools July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I know I often write, 'what a year it has been!' but it really has been! Who could have predicted that life for us all would have changed quite so dramatically. Although our experiences and the impact of the pandemic has and will continue to be different for each and everyone of us, I would like to take the opportunity in my final letter of the year to look back at the positives.

I am going to indulge in lots of 'thank you's' in this newsletter because I think everyone deserves a huge pat on the back for all they have achieved this year.



So as the song says, "What have you done lately to make you feel proud..."

- ◆ We have been able to serve our community by caring for the children of our keyworkers during lockdown, supporting the distribution of food parcels and kept in contact with all our families.
- ◆ We have been able to implement government policy at very short notice always ensuring the wellbeing of our children and safety first.
- ◆ Since June 2nd every child in reception, year 1, Year 6 and all key worker children have had the opportunity to return full time to school.
- ◆ We have provided an opportunity for all children to spend some time in school before September.
- ◆ We have found creative ways for children to learn and not miss out too much by running virtual sporting events and even a dinosaur exhibition!



BUT I am most proud of our amazing children who have skipped happily into school, who have adapted to the 'new' way of schooling, who have been creative and resilient, who have overcome their own anxieties to step back out in to this brave new world. I know you will also be feeling very proud of your children.

As a community we all have much to be thankful for. I know it hasn't been easy for many of you, our parents, who have juggled work whilst educating your children at home, perhaps facing financial struggles, managing high levels of anxiety along with demands of lockdown and beyond. Whilst doing so you have still managed to be patient, understanding and support our schools as we tried to make sense of this brave new world– thank you!





Some more thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our fantastic staff for all their hard work and for all they do to make a difference to our children. They too have grappled with working and managing their families but they have continued to do their very best in ensuring that the children are happy and learning. We are very fortunate in having such a dedicated group of staff at both schools.



I would like to express my thanks to our governors who under the always strong and supportive leadership of our chair, Helen Oakley, have continued to support the schools throughout these unprecedented times. Helen's support has been invaluable during the sometimes difficult moments that I in particular have had.

And so to our wonderful Year 6 children.

Who could have predicted such an end to your year 6 but I am grateful that you have had the opportunity to spend time in school before you leave us for your new schools. We have had to be creative to ensure that you can still do all the things that you forward to in Year 6 such as continually wearing your hoodie, signing shirts and the water fight that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. I know it's not quite the same and it certainly hasn't been for your parents. Hopefully the fact that you came home like happy drowned rats and your leavers' assembly has been videoed will help.



I hope you will look back at your time at Northolmes with fond memories and I'm sure in the future you'll have lots to tell your own children about what it was like to be in school during and after the pandemic. I hope you will tell your children how kind, funny, supportive and caring you were and how school still made you work hard even at the very end!

We are going to miss you but we know that you'll go on to great things in your secondary schools and we look forward to finding out how you are getting on, we headteachers talk you know!

Good luck to our fantastic class of 2020 and a huge thank you to your families!

If you are one of our families who will not be returning in September I would like to wish you all the very best for the future.

We also say goodbye to Mr Horn who is returning to university to train as a teacher. We obviously did not put him off and it was also lovely for the children and staff to see Mrs Williams again. She left in the middle of lockdown and it has been really hard to give her the send off she so richly deserves.

Mrs Williams has inspired and touched the lives of so many and we wish her all the very best for the future.

Mrs Williams has left a legacy of sports and well being which will live on and will be built upon by Miss Emery our new sports lead. The amount raised for our virtual Race for Life was phenomenal—thank you!

On behalf of staff and myself we would like to say a very grateful thank you for our gifts and good wishes; they are all very much appreciated. We hope you have a very happy summer holidays and we look forward to welcoming our children in year 1,2,3,4,5,6 on **Thursday 3rd September**.

Best wishes,

Mrs S Anderson

