

Cunningham Hill Schools

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6th July 2021,

Dear Parents and Carers

As we are now days away from the end of another school year, I would like to reflect on this last academic year.

It has been an extremely challenging year this year for us all, but not least those in both school communities. The Covid lockdowns and the changes to the way things 'are normally' done have been very disruptive to our children, staff and to our parents too.

Staff

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the staff at both schools. As a Federation we have managed to maintain a very high quality of education for our pupils. We have been able to bring them varied activities and adapt to remote learning very quickly. I think sometimes we forget that our staff also have families and challenges at home, which they have also managed, while educating our children and giving 100% focus on their wellbeing and education. And not forgetting, it is a team effort. The schools would not be able to operate the way it does without ALL the staff playing their important role in the team.

Parents and Carers

Thank you to the parents as well, for understanding that this has been an extremely difficult time for everyone and bearing the brunt of the home learning. Isolations, cancellation of events and not being able to visit the school has also been extremely frustrating, but we appreciate our parents' and carers' understanding that this is what has been necessary to safeguard our children and staff and keep our children coming into school and has been the government's guidance which we have to follow. It has been a huge challenge, which we are hopefully now at the end of.

PTA

Thank you to all those that have volunteered this year on the PTAs. We are very lucky to have a dedicated team that have also done their best to adapt their fundraising and program this year to raise money to support the schools. Without such a supportive body of people in the background we would not have the lovely school community that we do and the funding really does bring the school much needed resources.

Senior Leadership

In a 'normal' year, I usually have an opportunity to publicly thank our Senior Leadership Team, but not this year! Therefore, I would like to thank Ms Elbourne-Cload, Mr Tavender, Mrs Barwin, Miss Jenkins, Miss Shennan and Miss Spencer for their leadership and unwavering dedication to the pupils and the schools, despite the challenges they have faced. They have gone above and beyond the call of duty this year, with the adaption of the teaching, the limitations that have been placed on all schools and their positivity in the last year. We are very lucky to have them.

Governors

In the background, we also have a body of hardworking and dedicated individuals supporting the schools on a voluntary basis. All have been available at short notice to deal with issues and Covid changes, give up their time to virtually visit the school and attend our numerous meetings and training. This year has also been extraordinary for them as Covid, and the Federation, has brought new challenges to them too. So, thank you also, to our Governors for your dedication and support of our schools.

Federation

This was also the year we decided to federate. Obviously, we did not plan for this to coincide with a global pandemic! The plans for the Federation have not been fully realised this year, but the schools have not stood still.

So many wonderful alignments and initiatives have been ongoing in the background around the common resources the schools use and the continued assessment and alignment of the curriculum to provide a seamless progression through the schools. But there is more to come! With the relaxation of the restrictions, expect to see some even more fantastic things happen at the schools in 2021/22.

Leavers

At the end of the year, it is also time to say goodbye to our Year 6 children, families, staff moving on and families leaving the schools. We wish you all well in the next stages of your education journey or wherever you are going next.

Wishing everyone a lovely summer break.

Rondi Allan

Chair of Governors

For and on behalf of the Governors

Cunningham Hill Federation