



Last Newsletter from Mrs D

The Year 6 parents had the opportunity to watch the concert School-O-Vision at the start of this week. What a talented bunch we have – the singing was superb, dancing on point and the jokes were hilarious. Thank you to all of you who managed to come along and we hope you enjoyed the show. Tuesday held our annual 'Break the Rules Day' where the children had the opportunity to break rules for a small donation to raise money for the school. The children took great delight in calling all the staff by their first name, chewing gum and coming to school in their wild outfits. Thank you for your support with this event, as it is one of the favourites with the children. Then in the afternoon, we held the Year 6 pizza afternoon and water fight which is a new tradition we have created over the last couple of years. We all got completely soaked and took great delight in squirting each other and throwing water balloons all over the place. The Year 6 children left at 2:30pm today and in usual JOPS tradition, we saw them off in style with the juniors waving them off as they make their way out of the building for the very last time. May we wish all our wonderful Year 6 children all the love and luck in the world as they start their new journey. May we also wish Miss Marsh, Mrs Geoghegan who leave us to join their new schools in September and Miss Hume who starts her maternity leave.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

02.09.24 Inset Day – Staff only
03.09.24 Y1 – Y6 return to school
22.10.24 Y6 West Runton Trip
28.10.24 Half Term Whole School
04.11.24 Whole School return to school
09.12.24 Inset Day – School closed

AMAZON WISHLIST

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/98X98CQN2GFR?ref=wl_share

SCHOOL CALENDAR

<https://jamesoglethorpe.havering.sch.uk/events/list/>

SCHOOL DINNER MENU

<https://haveringcatering.co.uk/schooldata/test-the-james-oglethorpe-primary/>

SCHOOL UNIFORM

<https://jamesoglethorpe.havering.sch.uk/parents/school-uniform/>

A summary of my speech from this morning...

It was the winter of 2016 and the advert went out for the new Headteacher. There was a good feel to the school albeit it was a little worn down and tired looking and that was just the staff ☺ However, I felt it had lots and lots of potential. I was lucky enough to get the job and arrived in April 2017 as a new, young and thin Headteacher. Within my first few months, I was lucky enough to appoint Mrs Wagstaff and the rest is history. In 2017 we had just over 300 pupils so we had lots of spaces. 40% of our children also came from outside of Havering and we were known as a 'holding school' - we would have children long enough until a place became available at one of the more popular schools and then they would leave us. So we planned a BIG public relations project to get ourselves known for the good work that we do and it worked. We have nearly 400 pupils now - 25% are out of borough as we have more local children as they choose us. We are full again this year in September AND we had a waiting list when other local schools were not full. You did all this! Every single one of you played a part in our school's success and transformation! Now if you didn't already know the staff here are pretty amazing. They are always so hard working, willing to change and give new ideas a go. They are living and breathing examples of what 'aspiration' looks like - they show determination, they do not give up and just keep going. However they are more than that, they're fun to be around - you might not realise this but all the adults here do have personalities of their own AND a sense of humour AND a life outside of this school. They look after each other when they are going through some tough times as they supported me throughout. They are a very special group of people. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with them and will miss every single one of them very much.

You have been great ambassadors for the school also. On our tours, we show prospective parents what wonderful things our parents say about our school. Our parents are as proud of our school as we are and play a huge role in our school community. The JOSPAs are highly skilled, organised, enthusiastic, super heroes. When we look back at the events they have organised for us - movie and munch, school discos, pantomimes, inflatables and the list just goes on and on... Next year the pool will be arriving, which I know everyone is very excited about so I must come back and see how you get on.

Thank you to my family who give me so much love and support as without them I could not do this job. They listen to my woes, paint school walls, fill cracks in the school field, cut out things, let me try things out on them before showing the children or staff, give me hugs when I need them and help me relax when I'm not here. I love them all very much and I am looking forward to spending some quality time with them this summer.

Now who have I forgotten... Who do I always say that this school belongs to? Ah that is right the children themselves.

Without them, there is no school and the whole reason we are all here is because of them. Therefore, it has always been very important to me that they the children are the centre of everything we do. I will miss seeing your faces every morning or evening at the gate, in assemblies or at lunchtime. I asked the children to make sure they showed Mr Fielder exactly what they are made of as they are adorable - so polite, enthusiastic, funny, caring and a true delight to be around.

To be honest I could have easily stayed here for the next 15-20 years until I retired, as I have been so happy here. However, I feel the urge to try something new and different but I take with me so many wonderful memories.

Thank you all so much for the kind words, cards and generous gifts that I have received this week and my special assembly this morning which was so personal and will stay with me forever. I have been truly spoilt.

Have a wonderful holiday and break this summer and the rest of the staff look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 3rd September.

So thank you all and I send you all my love as you start your new chapter.

Mrs Durrant x