

20 July 2021



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Dear Parents and Carers,

GOVERNING BODY END OF SUMMER TERM 2021 NEWSLETTER

As we near the end of the academic year it is with a sense of gratitude and pride that I find myself writing this newsletter. I am grateful, for we have an outstanding school that has continued to provide a safe, inclusive and challenging environment for our children to learn during these difficult times. And I am proud, for what the school has achieved - few schools have held a sports day for parents to attend, performed testing across the years, and conducted school trips. This has only been possible because of the hard work, dedication and community spirit displayed by the school staff as well as the children and parents.

The highlight for many was the Isle of Wight residential trip. One of our Trustees was fortunate to attend as a parent helper and insisted on providing this feedback:

“That the trip went ahead was testament to the hard work and tenacity of the leadership team. For some this would have been the first trip away from home this year and it was clear that the children, helpers and staff all had an incredible time. I witnessed the efforts that the teaching staff went to every day, organising the days out and keeping parents informed during every event. I would like to extend my appreciation to Mrs Robinson and the staff, as well as all of the children who were a credit to the school.”

Sadly, there are a number of farewells we need to say:

Miss Caroline Moore, Mrs Jo Backhouse, Miss Gemma Cutmore, Mrs Sally Baker, Mrs Danielle Mason and Miss Claire Liston are leaving us. We wish them the very best in their endeavours and thank them for their dedication in furthering our children’s education.

Miss Stacey Carroll is due to have her baby in August and so will be on maternity leave. We are grateful for her stoical support during these trying (and what must have been very tiring) times and extend our best wishes to her and her new family. We look forward to her return in the future.

Sue Cheesman steps down as a Trustee so she may pursue a full-time teaching role. We thank Sue for her support and valuable insights to the Board of Trustees and wish her the very best in her career.

Laura Johnston (Chair), Andrea Joyce and Claire Simmons (Joint Vice-Chairs), and Rachel Seeney (Treasurer) of our Friends Association have passed on the baton after having raised an amazing £79,000 over the last four years. We are grateful for their hard work and innovation to deliver fun events at the school and to fund many enhanced facilities, including the recently installed outdoor gym. They are a tough act to follow!

We also say goodbye to the Year 6 children. They have risen to the many challenges thrown at them and managed to do very well in their “SATS”. We hope they get to enjoy the last few days of their



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primary school education with their friends and wish them all the very best as they go to secondary school.

We are looking forward to September when we welcome a number of new things, including: new teachers and assistants, new Year 3 pupils, new Friends Association leads, a new behaviour policy and new maths course material. The school has an ambitious development plan to keep improving and is committed to continue to be an outstanding school for our children.

I would like to again thank all the staff at Buttsbury Junior School (head teacher, leadership team, teachers, teaching assistants, mid-day assistants, volunteers, kitchen, office, cleaning and maintenance staff) for making this year happen, taking it in your stride, and for getting on with what needs to be done without fuss.

Finally, I think we are fortunate to have a head teacher who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to not only ensure staff and children wellbeing, but also to strive to make the time at school as memorable and enjoyable for the children as possible – particularly for the departing year 6 pupils. For so many events it would have been easier (and fully understandable) to cancel them, instead Mrs Robinson tirelessly worked to make as many happen as possible, sacrificing many of her weekends to do so. I'm sure I echo the thoughts of many parents in saying a big "Thank You" to Mrs Robinson.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees we wish you a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Steve Lague
Chair of the Board of Trustees / Governing Body

