



Headteacher Newsletter July 2010

15th July 2009

Dear Parents,

We are nearly at the end of another successful year for the school. I would just like to bring you up to date with news as we approach the summer holidays.



Our longest serving teacher, **Mrs Sheena Wood**, is retiring this summer. Mrs Wood has been associated with the school for 26 years. She started as a parent helper when her two children, Tom and Annie, attended the school. She then did some supply teaching before taking up a permanent post.

Mrs Wood is a native of this area and enjoyed a very happy childhood in Fangfoss. She trained to be a teacher in Sheffield before taking up her first post at Copmanthorpe Primary School, York in 1971. She had a break from teaching both to travel for two years and then to bring up her two children, who eventually attended our nursery and school.

Mrs Wood will take many happy memories of the school with her. She particularly remembers an Elizabethan theme day when everyone dressed up in period costume and witnessed the lighting of the beacon at the edge of the village to commemorate the defeat of the Spanish Armada. She remembers 'escaping and expiring animals' when pet shows were held on the school field and how well children of staff at the school got on when waiting for their mums at the end of the school day!

She will miss all the staff at the school who have been great colleagues and entertained her in the staffroom. Mrs Wood has enjoyed teaching art and history, in particular, and she will miss children who are keen to learn and to tell you about what they have been doing. Highlights of the school year have been the Nativity plays, harvest celebrations and educational visits to places like Flamborough. Mrs Wood will not miss computerised report writing, SATs and paperwork.

In the future she has plans to travel with her husband Brian, who also retires soon. They are both keen on world music and want to see as many live performances as possible. She is looking forward to reading and watching T.V. without falling asleep and seeing more of her extended family. She also mentioned being able 'hang out' in Leeds mid-week with her daughter and explore the city. Beware! Mrs Wood has made a real success of her role of KS1 Leader this year and ends her career on a high. Hundreds of children have benefited from her skills and commitment as an infant teacher and she has made a major contribution to the success of the school and the high standards we achieve. I know she is held in very high regard both by parents (and grandparents!) and all her colleagues at the school. On behalf of the children, parents, staff and governors, I wish her a long and happy retirement and thank her for all she has done for the school.

Staffing

The current Year 3 and Year 4 are our smallest year groups in the school. As they feed into Y5 and Y6, we will only need two classes in Upper Key Stage 2, not the present three classes. The Governing Body have taken the opportunity of Mrs Wood's retirement to reduce the teaching staff by one (i.e. not to replace her). This will avoid a future redundancy situation.

Mr Mike Smith will be taking on the role of **KS1 Leader** and **Child Protection Co-ordinator** from September.

Mrs Jane Winstanley was originally employed for the summer term to allow us to create two FS2 (Reception) classes. This group of children will need two classes for the foreseeable future. Mrs Winstanley has been offered and accepted a permanent teaching role.

Mrs Anne Ainsley has already joined the admin. team to provide extra support in the office.

Class Organisation Next Year

Foundation Stage 1 (Nursery) – Miss Diver
Foundation Stage 2 (Reception) – Mrs Archer (25 children)
Y1/FS2 Mrs Winstanley (24 Children)
Y1 – Mrs Levitt/Mrs Johnson (25 children)
Y2 – Mr Smith (30 children)
Y3/4 – Mrs Rush (28 children)
Y3/4 – Mr Fisher (26 children)
Y5 – Mrs Youd/Mrs Nordberg (29 children)
Y6 - Mrs Wells (36 children)

The children will have an opportunity to spend some time with their new teachers on Thursday morning and they will bring a letter home saying which class they are in from September.

SATs Results

Both the KS1 and KS2 results below show that we have maintain the high level of attainment that the school is recognised for and they are a testament to our hard-working children and dedicated staff. Thank you for your support of the children's learning.

Key Stage 1

	Level 2	Level 3	Level 2 and above
Reading	42%	48%	90%
Writing	55%	29%	84%
Maths	58%	42%	100%
Science	61%	39%	100%

Key Stage 2

	Level 4	Level 5	Level 4 and above
English	45%	32%	77%
Maths	53%	32%	85%
Science *	41%	51%	92%

* Science – no official SAT this year. These are our internal SAT results.

Term Dates Next Year

The school opens for children on **Tuesday 7th September 2010**

Autumn term half term is the week beginning **25th October 2010**

We break up for Christmas on **Tuesday 21st December 2010**

Children return for the Spring term on **Thursday 6th January 2011**

Spring term half term is the week beginning **21st February 2011**

We break up for Easter on **Friday 15th April 2011**

Children return for the Summer term on **Wednesday 4th May 2011**

Summer Half term is the week beginning **Monday 30th May 2011**

Monday 28th February 2011 and Friday 25th June 2010 are additional staff training day.

We break up for the summer holidays on **Friday 22 nd July 2011**

Summer holiday work

During the holidays we hope to have doors and windows replaced around the hall area and new lights installed in rooms in the older part of the school. The computer equipment in the computer suite and the school's main server are showing signs of age and wear and tear and are to be replaced. Plans are being drawn up to renovate the oldest building at the front of the school and the main wall. This will include repair, pointing, an injected damp course and plastering and will start later in the next school year.

Snippets

- ❖ The Local Authority informs us we will have a new lollipop lady in September.
- ❖ Thank you to all those involved in this year's Friends Leavers' Disco, particularly Chris from **Superior Motor Cars** for the free loan of the Rolls Royce to provide some stylish photo opportunities.

Residential Visits

The Borrowdale and Scarborough residential visits went very smoothly. Thank you to the staff, governors and volunteers who took part in the visits. As usual, our children received many compliments on their behaviour and attitude from staff at the places we visited and from members of the public. This year I asked the children who participated in the Borrowdale visit for some feedback. Here are some comments:

'I really enjoyed Borrowdale and wish I could go back. It was my favourite residential trip'

'I thought it was a fantastic trip. I really couldn't fault it. If I would give it a rating...well this isn't even hard to think about – I would give it 10 out of 10.'

'I really enjoyed the day we went to the forest. The blindfold trail was awesome and you really had to work as a team. As for the shelters, let's just say I like to get mucky!'

Thank you for supporting the visits and all other aspects of the school throughout this year. I hope you have an enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Mark Alston
Headteacher