

POTTEN END C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Information Letter

12 December 2014

STAFF NEWS

Firstly, I am very happy to report that Miss Rachel Holmes will be joining the teaching staff in January to teach Year 4. Miss Holmes is a very experienced KS2 teacher with expertise across the curriculum and a specific interest in computing. Mrs Lisa Bowers will be joining the Foundation Stage team in January and will work in Nursery.

We also welcome Mrs Linda Watts to the team of MSAs, she will replace Jenny England who has resigned from this aspect of her job here. Jenny will remain in her TA role. We are still striving to recruit a cleaner - this post is for 10 hours a week at the end of the school day. If you are interested.....or know anyone who may be - please, please apply!

GOODBYE AND THANK-YOU

It is with very mixed emotions that I write this. On the one hand, I am looking forward to my retirement - I will be looking after my lovely grandson, spending more time with my horses and chickens and in my garden..... and worrying less! On the other hand I am leaving a place that I care about very much - a place that is full of laughter and people I love.

I have spent 19 years of my life here at Potten End School - 9 as a class teacher and the last 10 as Head. I have so many happy memories of the children I have

worked with here (the oldest will now be 27!) their families, the volunteers including the Governing Body and of course of my colleagues. It has been a great privilege to work with such a wonderful group of people - I will miss them greatly, and the children most of all.

The last ten years have been a roller-coaster ride in many respects. Ofsted have visited on three occasions, each time followed by the Diocesan Inspection. We have survived a deficit budget, the Buncefield explosion, severe weather (both hot and cold) gas leaks, an intermittent and unreliable water supply, collapsed drains, an ageing, leaky building, numerous "initiatives" pressed upon us by the Government....and finally the expansion to become a Primary School resulting in the construction work! I want to thank you all very much for your support, patience and understanding over whatever period of time you have been part of the school community.

While I am aware that a number of you may not have always agreed with my decisions, I hope that you realise I always did what I thought best for the children.

Speaking of the children - I have so often felt such pride from their achievements, their often exemplary behaviour and I will treasure the memories of their smiling

faces as they endeavour to do their very best - as in this week's performances.

The school is well placed to develop further. We have wonderful facilities in the new block (what's it called?), the use of the Spencer Holland Recreation Ground, a Sport England playsurface and a safe and attractive outdoor area for Early Years. We are blessed with a creative and hard-working Friends of School who have raised thousands and thousands of pounds to enhance our facilities. We have a caring and dedicated staff and my successor is young, enthusiastic, energetic and very talented. He will do all he can to ensure that the children here receive the very best primary education possible, develop a love of learning and fulfil their potential while having fun. As we know - children thrive best when home and school work together and therefore I know that you will give him your support.

Finally I thank my wonderful staff but must particularly thank Sue Hood for her unfailing support as Deputy Headteacher, Jean and Janette in the office for patiently putting up with my sighing and ineptitude with computers and not least, the Governing Body for allowing me an element of "phased retirement" this last term. This last has been of invaluable help to my family.

I finish by wishing you all a very happy Christmas and good wishes for 2015. Once again, thank you for allowing me to have been involved in your child's

development.....enjoy your time as a parent, it will be over in a flash!

Yours sincerely

Jane Senior
HEADTEACHER