

I can't believe that we have reached the end of the academic year already. Time certainly passes quickly when you are busy!

Sport

This term we have continued to have coaching sessions by 'Game On' on a Monday for Years 3 and 5, which have been well received. In addition to this, Year 5 have received coaching from Watford Football Club this term, focusing on a variety of invasion games and sport's science/healthy living.

We have enjoyed multi-skills competitions with the Young Leaders from Ashylms and we have had lovely sports days in Foundation Stage and KS1. We will be organising a revisit to the KS2 sports day in the autumn term, when we hope the weather will be kind!

This term we have continued to increase our sporting activities, by taking part in both the rugby tournament at the start of the term with Year 4 and the rounders tournament (this week) with our rounders team. In addition, we have had fun playing a couple of friendly games of rounders with our Year 5 class against a local school (we drew one game and won the other). I was so proud of our rounders team as we managed to come 2nd in our pool. This is a fantastic achievement considering our pupils were playing against mainly Year 6 pupils with some Year 5s (our team consisted of only Year 5 pupils with one Year 4 pupil!).

We are looking forward next year to entering the netball, football and rounders leagues with our first Year 6 pupils and hopefully achieving sporting success.

Academic Results

We are so pleased that the school continues to excel academically.

We are pleased to announce that standards within Early Years are high and that, again, we are above the Hertfordshire average GLD level (good level of development) with 70% of our children achieving this level of development at the end of Reception class.

This year we once again scored above Hertfordshire in our phonic screening with 93.3% achieving the expected standard in Year 1 phonics, compared against Hertfordshire's score of 79.5%.

In KS1 SATS the children again scored above Hertfordshire in all areas at level 2 and above and level 3 and above. In some cases the school scored 10% more than the Hertfordshire average scores.

Changes to the curriculum and assessment nationally has made it difficult to review children's progress against the results of previous years (in Years 1, 3, 4 and 5). What I can say is that I assure you Potten End School sets very high standards and these standards of teaching and education have continued and changes in national expectations only mean that we are even more committed to providing an education that is broad, balanced and enriched. It also ensures your children reach standards above the National Standard and indeed, Hertfordshire's Standard.

Staffing News

I am pleased to announce that we have now appointed a new TA (Teaching Assistant) for our Year 6 Class in September. Last Friday we had an intensive day of interviews with some outstanding candidates. On this occasion we have chosen to appoint an experienced Teaching

Assistant within the class. Mrs Archer has had over 10 years of experience of being a TA, with much of this time based in upper KS 2.

We have also appointed Mrs Mitchell to work with an individual child within Nursery next year. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Mitchell who has previously worked in a nursery setting in Hemel Hempstead. In addition to this, she will also be taking on the position of MSA within the school at lunch time.

After many years of being a dedicated Deputy Head, Mrs Hood has decided to begin her phased retirement. This means, from September, she will be working 3 days per week covering Year 2 class on a Friday and being our Inclusion Co-ordinator for the remaining two days. I will obviously miss her support as Deputy Head, but I know I will continue to be supported by her in her new role. From September, Mrs Stroud will be promoted to the position of Acting Deputy Head Teacher. She will continue her current teaching commitment of 3 days per week, but will do an additional day in her new role each week. Mrs Brown will continue to teach the remaining two days per week within Year 6, ensuring continuity for the class.

Other News

I am pleased to announce that Potten End School is officially an 'Enhanced Healthy School'. Last week we were visited by the Healthy Schools team who awarded us this status due to our work on e-safety that we have completed within school. We look forward to continuing building on this important area next academic year.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Thank you very much to everyone who collected vouchers on our behalf. We have been able to order 3 Double Dutch skipping ropes, 30 tennis rackets, and a pair of netball posts for the children.

'Goodbyes'

We have some children who are moving on from our school at the end of this term. I would like to say a good bye to Archie, William, Stella, Bradley, Daniel, Bethan, Jessica, Isabella, Emily, Tyler, Kane, Harry, Jacob, Ava and Frankie and say that I hope they have enjoyed their time at Potten End Primary and that they will take with them some fond memories and that they will continue to shine in their new schools.

I must also say a special thank you and good bye to the Aston family. We will miss William and Archie, but also Paula and Kevin. Kevin has supported us in his role on the Governing Body, offering invaluable advice from his financial background, ensuring the school makes sound financial decisions during his time as governor. Paula, as you will know, has been instrumental in ensuring our 'Friends of the School' has been a huge success. She is a whirl wind with a passion for raising money for the school. Without this drive and dedication the school would not have raised the considerable funds they have. These funds have been used recently to create the Foundation Stage a play area, purchase iPads, an ecosphere and numerous other things.

Dinner Money

Please note that dinner money for all paying children will be £2.30 per day from the start of the Autumn Term. Statements should have arrived home today in book bags.

Thank You!

A huge thank you for all the wonderful gifts and cards that you have sent in for staff. They really are very much appreciated.

On a final note, I want to say that Potten End C of E Primary School is a truly wonderful place and I feel that being Head Teacher of such an amazing school is a privilege and an honour. I am excited by all of the wonderful events and activities we have planned for next academic year, but in the meantime I wish you a happy, safe and relaxing summer break.

Andrew Morris