

North Denes Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs D Whiting BEd (Hons)



Dear Parents/carers,

We are almost at the end of another school year! This year has been hard in that we took in over 100 children right across the school who had to adapt to life and expectations at North Denes. We also had to get to know them. I am pleased to say that they have all settled in very well, have made good progress from their starting points with us and are very much part of our school family. We have achieved fantastic results – above national – in year 6 so our pupils will go off to their high schools very well prepared.

As we break up, the builders move in! Some of the front playground will become a compound for the builders and alternative arrangements for the mornings are included in this newsletter. Children will be aware of arrangements and will be practising lining up in their new places before term ends. The builders will start by demolishing the school kitchen to allow access to the field. Our meals will be brought in from Caister High School. All being well, we should be moving in next September 2020.

There will be some trips and visits to start the new school year to introduce topics. Children gain a lot from these experiences and we ask that you pay what you can to cover the costs – without sufficient contributions next year; trips will have to be cancelled. We always subsidise trips but our budget has suffered and we can't cover what we have in the past. Letters for these, along with what to expect over the year and approximate costs, will come out at the start of the year. I thought you would just like to be aware that letters will come out in the new term so that you can budget ahead. We are planning to hold a cake sale, in the first couple of weeks, to raise funds and will be looking for cake donations – they have always proved very popular in the past. More information will come in September.

School attendance has been poor this year – this is disappointing because children who have lots absences don't learn as well and friendships suffer. We will be monitoring it very closely in the new year and will be contacting parents whose children are absent frequently. Please ensure that your children attend school every day – unless they are too unwell- and that they arrive on time. A late arrival is classed as an absence. (Good attendance is 96% and below 90% is classed as persistent absence).

Thank you to everyone who has supported the school this year – we are more successful when we all work together. Learning cafes have been very well attended; events such as sports day have been well-supported too. We look forward to the year 6 leavers' performance and afternoon tea next week – they have worked incredibly hard all round this year and are to be congratulated.

Lastly, it remains for me to wish you all a happy summer holiday with your children and to remind you all that school opens to the children on Wednesday September 4th. Reception children don't start back until Thursday 5th September because staff have phonics training on 3rd and 4th. I would like to wish all the year 6 children every success and happiness at high school. I am sure some of them will come back and let us know how they are getting on.

Debbie Whiting

Headteacher