

Great Whelnetham
Church of England Primary School
By growing together, we become the best we can be'

Chair of Governors: Kim Palmer Interim Headteacher: Ian Page
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22nd July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

During the final days and weeks of this Summer term, the teaching staff have been working on putting plans into place for the next academic year. We have visits and trips in store, to enhance our curriculum and excite and engage the children in their learning. It is our intention to deliver a really rich range of educational experiences to inspire every child as they progress through the forthcoming year. Whilst focused on progress and achievement, we also believe learning should be memorable, active and fun!

With this in mind, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on some of the accomplishments achieved this term. Wrens, Larks and Robins' visit to Banham Zoo was a triumph. Staff commented on the enthusiasm expressed by the children observing the antics of a range of species. As well as conveying their excitement, the children's behaviour was exemplary and a real credit to you and the school. We were incredibly grateful to all parents who accompanied us on the visit - your support was invaluable in making a success of the day.

Kingfishers and Owls greatly enjoyed their visit to the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds where they were able to go behind the scenes of the stage, take part in acting work shops and see one of the mosaics they helped to construct to celebrate the hundred year anniversary of the theatre's existence. This is now a permanent fixture at the back of the building. We were proud to see some of the children and their art work on the front page of the East Anglian Times the following day. Again, parental involvement in the trip helped make it a major success.

Speaking of dramatic prowess brings me to the Year 5/6 production, 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies.' All the children involved were able to combine acting skills and choreography to bring a range of characters to life with humour and pizzazz, showing their growing maturity, confidence and ability to work effectively together. This would not have been possible without tremendous behind the scenes work from staff and families with costumes and enthusiastic support. Swans' Leavers' Assembly was a marked an important event, when the children movingly reflected on their time at the school as they face the exciting and daunting prospect of moving onto to high school.

Sports Day showed the resilience of our children to run and complete various races in blazing heat. It was widely appreciated that this was a major accomplishment and it was gratifying to see the children supporting each other to take part, and overcome various obstacles like tripping over or losing shoes!

Email: office@greatwhelnetham.co.uk

School website: <http://www.greatwhelnetham.suffolk.sch.uk/website>

Values for Life: Compassion, Courage, Friendship, Trust, Truthfulness, Hope, Peace, Thankfulness, Creativity, Forgiveness, Humility and Justice.

The Summer Fair raised £620 towards our goal to install new playground equipment. Many thanks to the PFTA, especially to Zeta Sear for organising the event, and to all the staff and families who took part. This ranged from running stalls, organising raffles and being willing to be on the receiving end of wet sponges! Another entrepreneurial event was Woodpeckers' sale, with all the products designed or prepared by the children. They demonstrated that they could build on capital and make a tidy profit, again with proceeds going towards school funds.

All of the above would not be possible without the good natured enthusiasm of Great Whelnetham pupils and their families. I would like to thank everyone for this, and for the warm welcome I have received in my role as Deputy Headteacher this term. There have been successes, as mentioned above, but there is also more to do to develop the school's enormous potential to, 'be the the best that we can be.' We would welcome parental contribution to the PFTA, as Zeta Sear concludes her role as chair, and also to the governing body - positions which give opportunities for parents' voices to become a major part of steering the future direction of the school.

Additionally, I'm sure we would all like to thank Mr Page for the positive contribution he has made to seeing the school through this past interim period and helping us prepare for the next chapter.

I hope that you will have an extremely enjoyable Summer with your children, however you choose to spend it. I look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday 4th September when I will begin my role as Head of School, and Mrs Barrow will be Executive Headteacher.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Wallis
Deputy Headteacher

