



THE POCHIN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No. 39
14 July 2017

Dear Parents, Governors and Friends

END OF TERM

Today is the last day of term and the children return on Tuesday 29 August 2017.

This was the last day of being the Headteacher at The Pochin School and of my teaching career. I could spend a long waxing lyrical about so many things, related to education and The Pochin School. However, I'll keep it short and say thank you to everyone who has supported the school and me over many years to make the school the success that it is. It's not perfect and never can be, but the school community always tries its hardest to do the best for the children in its care. On a personal note I would like to publically thank all the staff at The Pochin School for everything they do. One really couldn't find a more dedicated and hard working group of professional people to work with and it has been a privilege and pleasure to work with them over the past 22 years.

I would also like to thank the governors who are volunteers that put an awful lot of work in behind the scenes. Again, the school would not be the success that it is without their support, thank you.

Michelle O'Dell will be taking the reins next academic year and I would like to wish her every success in taking the school on into the future.

I have been overwhelmed by people's generosity in giving me presents, cards and good wishes in the past few weeks. Thank you to all of you, it is very much appreciated.

I trust that you will all have a good break and holiday during the next few weeks.

FOUNDER'S DAY

Thank you to everyone who came along to the service, it is always good to see the Church full and people enjoying the service. Thank you too for all the flowers that were donated in the two house colours, they are very much appreciated.

A special thank you to Mrs Ro Wortley for making the Church look so beautiful with the flower displays and making the house colour button holes for the Year 6 children.

LETTER

Please see the attached letter from Gill Hussey, Chair of the Governing Body.

Yours sincerely

S M Cotton
Headteacher

"Valuing individuals through high expectations."

Dear Parents and Carers,

We seem to have come very quickly to the end of another academic year at our school. This year has been a very successful one for the school and all its pupils but as is common in most years, not without its challenges.

As governors we have a responsibility to ensure that the school has high expectations of our pupils' attainment. We have just come to the end of the second year of implementing the new national curriculum: not only have our teachers had to grapple with an entirely new curriculum but also with the extra difficulty of teaching this in our 'vertically grouped' classes which contain more than one distinct year group. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our teaching staff, throughout the school for the hard work and dedication they have demonstrated in implementing this curriculum successfully.

We have welcomed Mrs. Sharpe to the school this year as our Class 5 teacher and as our new Deputy Head and have been deeply impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm she has shown to the school. We would like to congratulate Mrs Rimmer on the birth of her daughter in April and have welcomed Mrs Bramley who has very ably been teaching Class 1 in her absence.

I'm sure you will all be aware that Mr. Cotton will be retiring from his role as our Headteacher at the end of this term. Mr. Cotton has served our school for 22 years and has made a huge positive impact on the life of the school throughout that time. We have seen successive Ofsted reports that have shown the school constantly improving, someone who has helped to nurture the professional talents of all the staff he works with to ensure excellent teaching, the transformation of school buildings that are unrecognisable from 1995 and an increasingly broad curriculum with residential experiences. At the heart of all this is has been his commitment to children; to allow each individual child to reach their potential and give them a school experience which fosters life skills for their future. His retirement has definitely been well earned but of course he will be very much missed from our school and I am sure you will join with us all in wishing him a very happy and fulfilled retirement.

As one era comes to an end we will be opening a new chapter next term and welcoming our new Headteacher, Miss O'Dell, who was appointed earlier this year following a very robust process by the governing body.

She has been visiting and getting to know our school since she was appointed and working with Mr. Cotton and particularly Mrs. Sharpe as our Deputy Head, to guarantee a smooth transition in the leadership of the school. Miss O'Dell comes to us with a wealth of experience and we are confident that she will make a great contribution to our school.

On behalf of the governors, I wish the Year 6 leavers a smooth and rewarding move to secondary school, and all of you an enjoyable summer break.

Gill Hussey

Chair of Governors

"Valuing individuals through high expectations."