



News from Whitchurch C of E Primary School

As we draw near to the end of the school year, our calendar is full of different events and activities for the children to participate in. These range from end of year assessments, school trips (both day and residential), school productions, our parent's association (Friends of Whitchurch Primary) MADD (Making a Difference Day) day, Sports Day and many more. It is, without doubt, one of our busiest half terms, bringing together the culmination of all the work we have done throughout the year.

In amongst the academic and enrichment activities, there is also the sense of the change that is coming. For our Year R pupils, this is the end of their first year during which they have transitioned into 'big school' from nursery – and their first step towards their more formal education that will begin next year. For our Year 2 pupils, it marks the ending of their Key Stage 1 and their move on, into their 'junior' phase of schooling. For our Year 4 children, the change at Whitchurch is more a physical one as in September the majority move classroom from downstairs in the building to upstairs. While for us, as adults, this seems like a relatively small change – given that it's still the same building – for our children this is a bigger thing...going upstairs...a domain reserved just for Year 5 and 6 – our upper Key Stage 2.

Finally, for our oldest pupils, our lovely Year 6, this is the end of their journey through primary school and the beginning of the next chapter as they embark on to pastures new. This heralds a combination of sadness, nervousness and excitement; sadness that they are leaving (for us and for them), nervousness about what is to come, and excitement for the new challenge and adventures that lay ahead. As staff and parents, we all know how this feels, having done it ourselves any number of times – we can talk to the children about their anxieties as we have felt them too. How many of us, on starting a new job, have felt that worry about what we are walking in to? Will we be able to meet the challenge before us? Will people be kind and helpful? Where is the toilet? The questions range from the practical to the philosophical.

As adults, we know that, in the end, things turn out ok. Yes, we could meet that challenge. Yes, people were kind and helpful (I hope!) and we did manage to work out where everything was in the building...including the toilet. Our job in these last weeks of term is therefore to reassure and remind our Year 6 pupils that they too can meet this challenge. While they may only have reached the ripe old age of 10 or 11, they have already faced many changes in life and have already experienced the challenge of embarking on something new. They have, after all, managed to successfully negotiate their way through 7 'starts' of the year already. They have also negotiated their way through Covid and all that that brought...and not many cohorts of the past can say they have faced a challenge and a change so big or so different. They have faced a myriad of 'new' experiences with every opportunity that has come their way and, as a result, they have grown in confidence, in character and in knowledge and understanding of the world around them. They may temporarily forget this, in their excitement and nervousness of the next big change that is coming, but we know they will be fantastic...that they will overcome the nerves, embrace the opportunities heading their way, and have a wonderful future – hopefully one filled with happiness and success. We wish them the best of luck.