

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



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HEADTEACHER
Mr A Johnson

2nd July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I think it's safe to say, that the countdown to the end of term has officially begun and to be honest, it's difficult to say who keeps reminding me more, of the number of days left - staff or children! However, always the voice of reason, I keep reminding everyone that we still have a few weeks left.

Our Year Six are all excited about the prospect of undertaking a new challenge in their prospective schools and in conversations with them, I can sense a heady mix of excitement and trepidation. I know the staff join me in wishing them all the very best for their futures, and we hope they take the opportunity to pop back, once in a while, so we can catch up with them again.

It has been, to say the least, another extraordinary year. The levels of disruption caused have been immense - and yes, there was definitely evidence of 'writing fatigue' and stamina levels for learning were initially low, however, the children have adapted remarkably well and shown both great resolve and resilience. I tip my hat to all of them.

Just quickly, looking ahead to the 19th July and the 'final' easing of lockdown measures, as a school, along with many in Dorset, **we will be asking parents to remain wearing masks and be mindful of social distancing for the last three days of term.** With cases once again on the increase, it would be a terrible shame if children and/or yourselves had to suddenly self-isolate, at the very beginning of the summer holidays. I can't imagine being locked down with my daughters at that time - I'm sure it would finish me off!

We see some staffing changes at the end of this term, with Miss Ward leaving our Early Years Reception class to lead, in her own right, at another school slightly North of us. Miss Ward was instrumental in establishing Forest School at Conifers, which many children have experienced and benefited from. Don't panic, this resource will continue in her absence, but I thank her for initiating this project and wish her well at her new school. Stepping into the fold, we welcome Miss Forbes, who will be teaching Acorns class and joining the school on a permanent basis. We look forward to welcoming back Mrs Prior who returns after her maternity leave, and a quick change of marital status! Many of you will remember her as Miss Worley. As one returns, we have said best wishes to Mrs Chapman, who commences her maternity leave and welcome Ms Evans to Conifers, who will be leading in the THRIVE base whilst Mrs Chapman is absent. Miss Anthony continues her maternity leave and Miss Boyd will step into the arena to cover this from September. We end by expressing our very best wishes to Miss Blake - who with a quick 'I do' will become Mrs Humphries, but otherwise returns unscathed in the Autumn. Last but not least we welcome Miss O'Brien as a permanent member of our staff.



Talking of the Autumn term - we do sincerely hope to return to a sense of normality - in whichever guise that comes. The most obvious change will be reinstating the 'old' timings of the school day. The school grounds will be open from 8:30 am (via the Front and Back gates) and the school day will start for ALL YEAR GROUPS at 8:50 am. The school grounds will then be locked until 3:05pm, when both the Front and Back gates will be opened, with the school day finishing at 3:15 for our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children and 3:20 pm for our Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 children. **Please remember, that if older siblings from our secondary schools, are collecting their younger brothers or sisters, they must report to the school office, where the children will be released into their care.**

I will take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, wonderful summer and apologise for not being able to say farewell in person to you or the children, as personal circumstances have called me away from the school with immediate effect.

As always - my thanks to you, for your continued support and help in keeping Conifers and our community shielded, through these difficult times. I look forward to seeing you all in the Autumn.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson
HEADTEACHER

