



# Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England Primary School

## Endings and beginnings

This time of year is always a time of goodbyes, memories and reflections. As a school we have survived a difficult year by supporting each other. We now say goodbye and good luck to our Y6s moving to their new schools, ready to make friends and have new adventures. We will think of you often. It has been a pleasure to watch you grow and flourish this year. You have been ambassadors and I have been so proud of how you have risen to every challenge. There has been some disappointments and missed opportunities but you have dealt with the loss well and are strong, ready for your next challenge and always in our hearts.

We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Davidson, Mr Thompson and Mrs Mable as they start new and exciting journeys.



### Reception – Summer term news

We have enjoyed an amazing term! Our trip to White Post Farm was a sunny adventure where we learnt many facts about the farm animals that we saw. The children grasped the opportunity to stroke and hold some of the smaller animals too. It was fantastic to be out exploring the world together – a definite highlight for us all! We were then treated to a fabulous puppet show by Barmptot Theatre. Watching a live performance entranced us all as we pondered which animal had stolen the harvest in a show all about animal habitats. The children have learnt all about healthy lifestyles too, identifying healthy food choices and finding out how we can keep our minds and bodies fit. We enjoyed our first Sports Day with great team spirit! We are now at the end of our first year at school – what an adventure we have had! 😊



## Year 5/6 news

I cannot believe we are at the end of the year and what a roller coaster it has been! It has culminated with a fun sports day, where the children thoroughly enjoyed competing and supporting their peers in a variety of races. It was lovely to finally give the older children positions of responsibility and watch them helping others, being 'runners', awarding stickers and setting up the races.

The year 6 children had their residential at Caythorpe PGL, where they had an amazing time facing their fears by being launched on a giant swing, sailing down a zip wire or trying to reach the top of Jacob's ladder. Their problem-solving skills were also tested to the limit, as they had to work their way through a range of problems as a team, decipher clues in a huge Cluedo game and orienteer their way around the campus. All the children immersed themselves in all of the activities and were a credit to the school.

A huge amount of credit goes to all of the year 5 and 6 children for their hard work and dedication (plus putting up with a lot of nagging) to put on a superb performance of 'Wow What a Year'. The performance will take you through a whistle stop tour of the ups and downs of the events over the past 16 months. It will make you laugh and it will make you cry. For all of you who have purchased a copy of the DVD, I hope you enjoy it as much as we did.



# Year 1&2 News

What a busy final term we have all had and all of it has been so much fun. We had a great ending to our seaside topic with a visit from Ron Wood. He told us all about what the seaside used to be like including us watching a real life 'Punch and Judy' show. We were then very lucky to meet some of his puppets and use them. When the children were asked what their favourite part of the day was, most said 'everything!' but watching the show, eating a picnic in our bubbles outside and ice creams at the end of the day were up there too. Potter class had to watch it from home but we did our best to involve them as much as possible. They then had their own beach day when they returned to school and had a wonderful day. We loved seeing all the beach hats and sunglasses coming out!



We also had our sports day on Wednesday which was a real success. The children put in their best efforts and cheered each other on. We were super impressed with the final running races and the speed the children ran at. What we were the most proud of was how every child gave everything a go with a smile on their face!

Finally, we all got to meet our teacher for next academic year. Although it wasn't for as long as we would normally have, it was still very exciting. The children are definitely ready to move on to the next year group; they are growing up so quickly. Enjoy your summer everyone!






### Y3/4 Summer Newsletter

Well, we made it! What a long, tough term it has been but the children have done themselves proud and really persevered with their learning. It has been wonderful to have a slightly more normal end to a school year.

The Year 3 children enjoyed their Belvoir Cricket day and the Year 4 children really pushed themselves to their limits and were incredibly courageous on our Kingswood residential. Sports Day was a great success and enjoyed by all the children. We really enjoyed discussing different ways to stay safe during our NSPCC assembly work. In art, the children have made some absolutely fantastic coil pots which will be making their way home soon! Next year, we are very much looking forward to being with new friends and teachers, learning lots of new things and being all grown up!





Mrs Davidson is retiring this summer in preparation for a move to Scotland. She will still be in Grantham for the next year and will be doing some private tutoring after school. If you feel your child would benefit from some personalised, 1:1 sessions in reading, writing or maths, you can drop her an email on [rachelmdavidson@icloud.com](mailto:rachelmdavidson@icloud.com)

Can I please remind everyone to park safely and considerately. It is essential that children can walk into and out of school safely, this means ensuring that you park in a legal place away from the pedestrian entrances. Also consider parking further away from school to support some healthy lifestyle choices. This will enable those with young children and toddlers to park near the site. Please be considerate to our neighbours.

Frustration and dedication! Two words that perhaps sum up this school year. The frustration of having been back to school in the autumn, only to have to go off again in the spring; of plans for school development to have to be put on hold or pared back; for pupils to have to remain in bubbles and have many of the highlights of the school year cancelled; for parents having to deal with lockdowns and spells of isolation. Among it all however, I am thankful for the dedication of so many in seeking to ensure the well-being and progress of our children.

A number of governors have been able to speak to staff through our regular monitoring recently and we are pleased to see what has been achieved despite the difficulties, but also the hunger for a 'normal' year so that so much more can be done. It is testament to the character of the whole team that morale and commitment remains so high. Although difficult for Mrs Watson coming in as a new headteacher, it is clear that she is already making an impact.

The end of the school year is always a time for goodbyes and this year we wish Mrs Davidson all the best as she leaves us for retirement. Having had to battle problems with her voice – not the best problem for a teacher! – we are thankful for her example of dedication to the children. Best wishes too to Mr Thompson as he moves on from the school after 3 years of supporting PE and sports clubs and Mrs Mable after a short spell of support work. We are also losing 2 governors, Stephen Crook and Paul Stokes, we grateful to them for their commitment to, and work with, the governing board over recent years. And of course, as our Y6's move on, we hope they will continue to make good progress to fulfil their potential wherever their path leads.

Thank you to all our parents who have supported us with understanding through this year; it means a lot to staff and governors to hear your appreciation for the effort that is put in. As we hope to develop our new vision next year – 'Let all that you do be done in love' – I am reminded of a couple of the attributes of love in a famous passage about love in the Bible: 'Love is patient . . . endures all things.' Patience and endurance have been shown in good measure this year and, God willing, next year we will be able to come back refreshed and ready to get on with 'Learning, Loving, Living'. Have a great summer!

Michael Buckeridge, Chair of Governors