

18th July 2024

End of the Summer Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the final few days of the summer term, I would like to congratulate the children and staff for all their hard work and efforts during this year. Well done everyone! A reflection of an awful lot of work from Bridge Schools children and staff.

Thank you to you as parents for your assistance with the many school activities during this academic year; supporting with homework, reading, equipment, uniform, keeping your children's days of school attendance up and making sure the children are ready to learn.

Children are making expected progress

Formal assessments have taken place in EYFS, Year 1 phonics check, Year 2, Y4 multiplication tables test and Year 6 SATs. Headline figures for the Trust should be at least in line with national averages. We are delighted with the outcomes children have achieved this year. Taken as a Bridge Schools average every area is above the national average with one area in line. This is a huge achievement for everyone working together in Bridge Schools.

Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed this summer's parent questionnaire. Your participation helps us to identify any areas for further improvement. Results have been shared with all school heads and if you have requested a follow up response further to any comments you provided in the questionnaire heads are working through these with the aim to complete by the end of the summer term.

Harrowbarrow School

We are delighted to announce that Harrowbarrow will be joining Bridge Schools from next academic year. Staff at the school have already met with many staff from across the Trust and we look forward to welcoming them to the team officially from September.

Finance

We continue to work in difficult times financially, all schools nationally are struggling having to trim back to make budgets work. We have had to cut back on our in-year budget to make things work but we remain in a better position than most. The finances for Bridge Schools remain in good shape with enough money in reserve to continue with IT and buildings projects and investment in resource for all our children. These are crucial together with capable staff in securing high quality provision for your children.

IT Investment

During the last year we have continued to invest in IT infrastructure and hardware including the upgrade of our iPad provision. This now takes all of the small schools to a 1:1 level of provision and most schools are at a 2:1 point with devices. This additional learning resource enables children to access digital learning and build skills for future employment.

Buildings Improvements

We were fortunate to be awarded £179k government grant this year for energy efficiency projects so each school will benefit from this funding.

Ofsted Inspections

Several of our schools have been inspected by Ofsted over the last academic year. We are delighted that these have been very positive, highlighting the quality of teaching and the enhanced curriculum offer as well as the way in which the Trust supports schools to develop further. The way we utilise collaborative opportunities and the skills of staff from across the Trust for the benefit of all has been particularly noted.

Collaborations

We have had successful, shared events over the year. We celebrated Bridge Schools 10th Anniversary where children produced and shared their animations to tell the story of Bridge Schools Values to mark our first decade. Trust wide poetry projects have also taken children's work as far as the Wilfred Owen Museum in France, where international links formed have resulted in a project that saw children's work written about World War 1, scattered on biodegradable paper containing wildflower seeds over The Somme this summer.

Farewells

Year 6 – Class of '24

I really hope you have enjoyed this year and the previous years in primary school. We hope you have learned all you need to prepare you for secondary school. Remember us and go on to achieve great things, we all wish you the very best.

Headteacher – Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy

Mrs Suzanne Cooper will be retiring from her post as Head Teacher of Brunel Primary & Nursery Academy at the end of this term.

Mrs Cooper has worked in education for over 36 years providing dedicated service as a class teacher, nursery teacher, deputy head and head teacher. A great deal of change has happened over that time, but hundreds of children will have been taught by Mrs Cooper over the years and for that we are very grateful. Mrs Cooper took over as head teacher at Brunel in 2019, bringing the school up from a difficult period to the Good with Outstanding position Brunel now enjoys. Her warmth, encouragement, and devotion to the children in her care is immense; we wish her well for a long and happy retirement.

Also, of particular note are: Clare Semple who has worked for over 16yrs as class teacher, Head of School and SENCo. Sandra Jeffrey has worked as a teaching assistant for over 25yrs. Oli Jones has worked as a class teacher and Sports coach for over 21yrs. Katie Lee Elkins one of our capable assistant heads also leaves us to work for a different trust nearer home. We thank them very much for their service and dedication to Bridge Schools' children. We wish all other staff members leaving us at the end of this term all the very best for the future and thank them too.

Team

We have an extraordinary group of people who have chosen to work with your children in Bridge Schools. Staff have gone above and beyond again this year to ensure your children have the very best opportunities possible. I would like to thank them for their enthusiasm to achieve great things for all the children in our schools. Governors, trustees and members have all given a great deal of time voluntarily again this year, providing challenge and support, my thanks also go to them. My greatest thanks and accolades as ever go to the children. They have navigated their way through another academic year showing their determination and ability to succeed, supported by staff, governors, trustees and parents working stronger together.

With INSET on Wednesday 24th July, the summer term will finish on Tuesday 23rd July for this academic year. Whole Trust INSET is also planned on Tuesday 3rd September. In the meantime, I do hope that you have enjoyed the school summer events over the last few weeks and thank you for your continued support. I hope everyone enjoys a lovely summer holiday; we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 4th September.

With all good wishes,

Adrian Massey and everyone at Bridge Schools.