

Friday, 16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

End of the School Year

This will be the final newsletter of the school year.... a year that has certainly been another unusual one. There have been challenges for the children, for you as parents and for the staff. I would like to thank you all for your continued support through a difficult and uncertain period of time.

Year 6 Leavers

As we reach the end of the year, it's time to say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils. We are looking forward to enjoying their virtual Leavers' Celebration on Wednesday morning and details will be sent out to the children's parents and carers before their video is premiered. We wish **Malak, Freya, Maisey-Lee, Krasimir, Charlie, Maddie, Ronnie, Lucas, Chloe** and **Jessica** all the very best as they leave Halebank and move onto their high schools. I am sure that they will continue to bring out the best in themselves and one another as they begin the next stage of their learning journeys. Goodbye and good luck to them all!

Stars of the Week

Let each of you
look not only to
his own interests,
but also to the
interests of others.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

This week's Stars of the Week are linked to our collective worship theme of **team work**, and **sticking together**, particularly in tough times. We have considered the team work of the football teams who participated in Euro 2020 and have reflected on the way the Danish team pulled through an especially challenging time. We obviously discussed England's excellent run to the final and what the team might need to do to bounce back from the disappointment of losing to Italy on

Sunday night. Perhaps you could talk to your child at home about the value of pulling together and ways in which being a 'team player' could be celebrated at home. Here are this week's Stars of the Week who have shown us how well they have done with their team spirit:



Reception	Isabella T: for being an excellent team player in kick rounders!
Year 1	Hugo: for being a sociable member of the class
Year 2	Jessica: for cooperating and playing well with others
Year 3	Ivy: for being a super and fair team player
Year 4	Lillian: for contributing extremely well to online learning
Year 5	Alex P: for fantastic work during home learning
Year 6	Chloe: for being very helpful and a guide to other children in school



READING CHAMPIONS



Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4
Leah	Georgie	Ruby & Kodie-Leigh	Ellie

Term Dates

Just a reminder that the final day of term is **Wednesday, 21st July** and we are expecting everyone in school for the last three days. This is particularly important for our Year 6 pupils who will be preparing their Leavers' Celebration on Monday and Tuesday, and to pupils in Years 4 and 5 who have lots to catch up on having also been self-isolating. As for next year, **Wednesday, 1st September** is a **staff training day** and school will **re-open** to pupils on **Thursday, 2nd September**.

Arrangements for the New School Year

As a school, we have spent the last 18 months trying to keep up with the latest guidance and what we have learnt is that things can change very quickly! You will be aware that the final phase of the easing of restrictions is coming into effect shortly and we are not expecting to be operating as 'bubbles' from September. Rather than confirming next year's arrangements now, the staff and I would like time together over the summer break to review our plans and risk assessments (as we did at this stage last year) in case we are issued with advice between now and September.

I will send an email to you on **27th August** (the final Friday of the holidays) to confirm arrangements for the start and end of the school day, the timetabling of the school day and access to the school site. I am expecting a return to the 'old' arrangements where parents drop off in the morning any time **from 8.40 am** (and no later than 8.55 am) so that the children can complete their early morning tasks and get settled for the day. Similarly, it is anticipated that the school day will end at the same time for everyone at **3.15 pm**.

Elements of Halton

Class 4 has been involved in an arts and science project with Halton Primary Arts Network. Each school had a different focus. Our children explored the history of the chemical industry in Widnes and Runcorn and how it changed over the years. They also interviewed people about their personal memories of the effects of the pollution. Although our filming was cut short by the bubble closure, we have still contributed to the final production. Take a look on the [Elements of Halton YouTube Channel](#).

Free School Meal Vouchers

Parents of pupils who are eligible for free school meals should receive a £72 voucher from Wonde as part of the COVID Summer Food Fund. The vouchers have been ordered and are due for delivery via email on 21st July. If you think your child may be eligible for Free School Meals next year, please have a look at [Halton Borough Council's FSM](#) application information by clicking [here](#).

School Uniform

I would ask for your support in ensuring that your child is ready for September wearing the correct uniform as set out below. We want to encourage the sense of belonging to the school and togetherness. Uniform can be bought from Boydells in Widnes, either in the shop or ordered over the phone. It is also available from <https://myclothing.com>. If you prefer, school uniform can be purchased at a shop or supermarket of your choice. The colours of our school uniform are as follows:

- **navy blue** cardigan and/or sweatshirt
- **royal blue** polo shirt
- **grey** skirt, pinafore, trousers or shorts
- **pale blue** checked summer dresses (summer term only)

We also have a uniform for PE. This can be purchased from the same providers as the school uniform. We ask that all children are prepared for the new school year with the following:

- **navy blue** shorts
- **royal blue** crew neck T shirt

The correct footwear in school is particularly important so if you are in the process of buying this, we ask that sensible, **black school shoes** (not boots, trainers or open-backed footwear) are worn throughout the school day. Your child will also need **trainers or pumps** when the classes have their PE days. Arrangements for bringing PE kits into school and confirmation of PE days will be provided at the start of term by class teachers.

Annual Reports

You will shortly be receiving a copy of your child's annual report. Inside the report envelope, you will find a copy of the report and a covering letter which explains the format and content of this year's written report.

Parental Feedback

Inside your child's report envelope, you will also receive a parental feedback questionnaire. It would be really helpful to have as many of these returned as possible to help the school review its strengths and areas for development. I would be interested in any comments you would like to make about the school, in particular our response to the pandemic. Questionnaires can be completed in paper form or if you'd prefer to complete the Word version (attached to the emailed version of the newsletter), please just send this back to me at head.halebank@halton.gov.uk. Thanks, in advance, for taking the time to provide your feedback.

Retirement of Miss Kathleen Williams

At the end of term, we say farewell to a loyal and committed member of our Governing Board who has served the school for around forty years, [Miss Kathleen Williams](#). Miss Williams, who lives very close to our school and is a proud 'Halebanker', is well known to many of the families including former pupils and parents. Unfortunately for us, she has decided to retire as a governor after four decades of service to the school.

Miss Williams joined the Governing Board in the late 1980s as a Foundation Governor, appointed by the PCC of St Mary's Church. At that time, she was working full time in the NHS and still managed to find time for the school! When she retired from full time work, she was able to give more time and commitment to the school and, as well as her governor responsibilities, she came in on a weekly basis to listen to children read; some parents might remember her working in their classes when they were pupils here!

Around 16 years ago, Miss Williams was appointed Chair of Governors, a role she has only recently handed over, and through this time she saw a great many changes in the

educational landscape. She led the recruitment process for most of the staff currently employed at the school and oversaw the planning and building of the new school site alongside the headteacher at the time, Miss Threadgold. Miss Williams has recently told me that while the role has been a 'big commitment', she has thoroughly enjoyed working alongside and supporting the school team. She says that she has great respect for the staff for 'the tremendous work they do for the children of Halebank'.

She has contributed enormously to Halebank Church of England Primary School over the years; staff and governors are finding it hard to imagine the place without her! Her generosity, advice and wisdom will be greatly missed. On behalf of the pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Miss Williams for all she has done. We plan to mark her retirement with a special event in school next term.

Staffing News

As you are aware, we will be saying goodbye to our wonderful caretaker, Mr Paul Washington. We are all very sorry to see Mr Washington leaving, but we wish him a long and very happy retirement. The staff think he's done a fantastic job in his time with us; nothing has been too much trouble for him and he has coped remarkably well with the demands of the job (and the staff!). We have appointed Mr Keith Boon as our new caretaker and he will be joining Team Halebank in September.

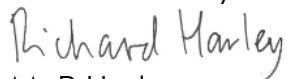
We are also saying goodbye to our two temporary teaching assistants, Miss Charlotte Schorah and Mrs Liz Stewart. Both have worked incredibly hard during their time at Halebank and have offered invaluable support to both their colleagues and the children in Classes 2 and 3. We wish them both well in the next challenges that lie ahead.

Thank You

With the end of the academic year only a few days away, I'd like to thank you all again for your support through the year. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with your amazing children. Let's hope that a settled and straightforward school year is just around the corner!

Stay safe and look after yourselves over the summer break.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Harley