

St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy

Headteacher: Mr Stuart Colothan

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Wednesday 15th July 2020

Re: End of School Year

Dear Parents/Carers,

This school year has been very different for us all and unlike any other academic year.

During the Autumn Term and for much of the Spring Term, we enjoyed many highlights, including a range of successful performances and concerts, exciting educational visits, inspirational visitors, Church community events, sporting successes, themed days and weeks to name just some.

Closing school to the majority of children on Friday 20th March, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was one of the most difficult things, personally, I have had to do. Not knowing how long this would last for and what the future would look like was very unsettling for us all. We remained open to children whose parents are critical workers and other identified children, and adapted to the situation that we found ourselves in.

Staff worked extremely hard and prepared well for the school closure, beginning a new way of educating children, through online home learning. We have been extremely happy with the home learning provision and received much praise and positive feedback for this. I would like to thank parents and carers for the support that you have given your children during these challenging times, when many of you have also been working from home. You have been instrumental in making this a success.

From Monday 15th June, we commenced our phased wider reopening of school and we have enjoyed welcoming back many more children to St. Wilfrid's. Although there have been organisational changes to keep our children and staff safe, it really has been wonderful to have children back at school and to see happy faces and hear joy and laughter. We very much look forward to welcoming all children back to St. Wilfrid's in September and reuniting our school family and community.

We say thank you and farewell to our Year 6 children at the end of this week as their Primary Education draws to a close. I am incredibly proud of this group of children, having watched them journey through school, and will be extremely sad to see them leave St. Wilfrid's. They are looking forward to new challenges and experiences, and I know that they are well prepared and equipped for the next phase in their education. The Year 6 Leavers' Service will be available to watch via the homepage of the school website, from 6pm today, Wednesday 15th July. We hope that you can enjoy watching this together, making it a special occasion. The children will watch this again in school tomorrow in their bubbles and will each bring home a gift bag. If your child is in Year 6 and is not currently attending school, please arrange to collect their gift bags with the school office from tomorrow.

On behalf of all the staff and children, I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Kneale, who has been an integral part of St. Wilfrid's for the last 20 years, serving as Headteacher and more recently Executive Headteacher of the Learning Together Trust. Mrs Kneale will retire from her role at the end of the Summer Term, but we look forward to welcoming her back in the Autumn Term, as she works alongside Trust Leaders.

I would like to congratulate Mrs. E. Prentki and Mrs. K. Newman on their new roles as Acting Deputy Headteachers and Mrs. G. Kohler, who will also commence her new role as Acting Assistant Headteacher from September 2020, when I commence an interim joint role as Executive Headteacher, whilst remaining Headteacher of St. Wilfrid's. We also welcome back Mrs. L. Atherton and Mrs. S. Melling, who will return from maternity leave, in their respective roles as Teaching Assistant and Teacher.

Please be reminded that we finish for the summer holiday at lunchtime on Friday 17th July and reopen on Wednesday 2nd September. Thank you for your continued support and partnership throughout the year, which is very much valued and appreciated. Have a restful, enjoyable and safe summer and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. S. Colothan
Headteacher



Learning Together Trust
Executive Headteacher: Mrs Janet Kneale



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