

Yox Valley Partnership



Primary School



Academy Head - Gail Jerman

head@yoxvalley.org

Website: www.yoxvalleypartnership.org

17th July 2020

Dear Parent and Carers

As we reach the end of the summer term it impossible not to look back on the school year; and it has certainly been a year of two halves. We started off in the Autumn term with two successful Ofsted inspections, the safe arrival of Mrs Eaton's baby and then Mrs Goddard's wedding to name just a few exciting events, and then we have ended the year with 4 months of disruption of which no one could have predicted. The one constant has been your endless support and before we head off for the summer break, I would like to thank you whole heartedly for all that you do for our schools, and for all the support we receive from you all.

Before we all disperse for the summer break, I just wanted to update you on a few developments.

Goodbye

As we will say our final goodbye to our friends in year 6, I would like to wish them all the very best of luck as they move on to High School. They are have had an extraordinary year and faced challenges like no other year 6. I have enjoyed 3 'virtual' Leavers' assemblies, and although these were not what we would have preferred for this 'rite of passage', they highlighted the wonderful journeys that each individual has been on. We hope they will keep in touch – we really love to hear how you are getting on.

We are also saying good-bye to a few other friends today – Rhys (Middleton), Sophie and Juliet (Yoxford and Peasehall), Sapphire, Daphne and Henry (Southwold). I would like to wish them all the very best in their new schools and again, we hope you keep in touch with us.

Hot off the Press!

A little while ago there was a competition on Google Classroom run by Radio Norfolk, Inviting children to listen to the story of 'Cinderboy' read by Chris and Rob, 2 Radio Norfolk commentators and then design a front cover based on what they had heard. We are delighted to announce that this morning we have heard that Merran Fairhurst from Middleton, was selected by Rob and Chris from radio Norfolk have chosen you as one of our winners in the Cinderboy competition! Merran has won a won a signed football.

But it doesn't stop there, Kelsey Goodwin, also from Middleton, was one of the runners up and has won a copy of the book. Congratulations to them both.

Never giving less than our best

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TA Apprentice of the Year

As you will have seen in the Horizons newsletter last Wednesday, Mr Jack Walton won the award for East Coast TA Apprentice of the year. Although he completed the majority of his apprenticeship at Middleton, he has worked across all three schools since he started nearly three years ago. This is a huge achievement and we are very proud of him. Well done Mr Walton!

Virtual School

There has been some wonderful work and beautiful photographs posted on the Virtual School platform over the past 4 months, and I know many of you have enjoyed listening to the stories. The Virtual School will finish this Friday (17th) and there will be no more work or activities posted on over the summer break. The platform will then be suspended over the holidays so that it can be worked on, and will be ready for September where it will be used for home-learning activities.

Handwashing

A few weeks ago Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne mentioned in his letter that we were all receiving a new handwashing station so that we could increase and highlight the importance of bio-security. We are delighted that these have now arrived in each school and Yoxford and Peasehall are giving theirs a test-run before they are all fully implemented in September.



Swimming Pool

The builders are making really good progress with the swimming pool at Yoxford and Peasehall, although the photos below don't really give them credit for how much they are getting done. We are really optimistic that we will be up and ready to go once swimming is allowed back in schools' curriculum in January 2021. For those of us that are there every day we don't notice the changes so much, but I am really looking forward to seeing it when we return in September.



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September Return

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back in September, and of course welcoming some new faces into all our schools. The schools will be a little more normal with pupils in their appropriate classes, and staff will be able to move more freely around schools. Obviously, we will be following the latest guidance and we will be doing an in-depth risk assessment for each site which won't be signed off by the Trust until the very end of the holidays when we will have seen how things have developed over the summer. We will update you with further information on how things are going to look and what the expectations just before you come back when we will have the most up-to-date information.

Well being

I just want to reassure you that should anyone require any support or advice over the summer break, then please don't hesitate to ask for it. This may be especially important as we approach the end of the holidays and think about returning to school, with some children being anxious about coming back after nearly 6 months. Whilst the school staff may not be around or picking up emails regularly over the summer break, the Consortium Inclusion team are available all through the holidays to offer any support that they can. They can be contacted by emailing them on advice@consotriumacademy.org

Websites

We are delighted to announce that on Monday 20th July our new websites will be going live. The Office Managers have worked endlessly getting them ready and I would like to thank them for their hard work on these. Each school will now have their own website so things should be easier to navigate – although like anything new, it takes a bit of time to find your way around. There may still be a few things that need to be completed but if there is anything you can't find then please contact the office manager who can direct you to the right place. Likewise if any of the links are not working, then please let us know and we can get them fixed.

Our new web addresses are:

Yoxfordandpeasenhallprimaryschool.org.uk

Middletonprimaryschool.org.uk

Southwoldprimaryschool.org.uk

All that leaves me to say now is have a wonderful summer break, whatever you are doing and wherever you go. Keep safe and see you on September 3rd.

Best wishes

Gail Jerman, Academy Headteacher

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