



SINGLETON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Charlton Road
Singleton
West Sussex
PO18 0HP**

**Telephone: 01243 811679
Email: office@singleton.school
Headteacher: Mrs Theresa Smyth**

July 17th 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Writing the final Newsletter of an academic year provides an opportunity to pause and reflect on the past 12 months, to celebrate, congratulate, thank people, and say farewell to others.

Whilst this year is far from having been 'normal', it is an important moment for us all to stop and acknowledge how the community of Singleton CE Primary School, has been truly exceptional in circumstances that have certainly been challenging.

Parents/Carers

You have been truly wonderful. Supporting the school team, sending lovely messages, accepting, and understanding the arrangements that we have needed to put in place and engaging with Zooms, picnics and of course Home Learning.

Throughout this period, I have often wondered how I would have managed, teaching my own 4 children had they been primary age. I think that is one question best left unanswered!

So hats off to you all – you are OUTSTANDING providers!



Children in School

To all the children in school – thank you. The team have been SO impressed with the way you have behaved, followed the rules, respected each other and the staff whilst bringing your smiles, fun and joy into our and each other's lives every day.

Special mention to Jamie in Year 6 – who has been here for the long haul! At least it gave you time to improve your hoola hooping skills!!





Children at Home

Thank you for being fabulous home learners. We know it may have felt strange to not be in school, knowing that some of your friends were. When most of you returned for the picnics, we watched as you reconnected with each other – chatting and catching up – your smiles said it all. You will be back together in just 6 weeks. We have planned very carefully to make sure we can keep you as safe as possible, to make sure we find out what your next steps in learning are, and to give you time to be together with your friends once more. We all have a lot of catching up to do – as well as welcoming some new children and teachers too.

Governors and Volunteers

Our Governors play an important role, both in supporting the school and monitoring the education and safety of the children and staff. We are truly blessed to have an active, supportive, and engaging Governing team, who have become ZOOM savvy and stood shoulder to shoulder with us all. A personal thank you to Janet, who as Chair of Governors, has been the voice of reason and a listening ear when I have needed to chat.

To all our reading buddies and parent helpers – thank you so much for your time, help and support for the children in our school – hopefully we will be able to resume business in the not so distant future.

Year 6

It may not have been quite the usual leavers service and week, but we did get to say farewell. The Year 6 children had a special outdoor picnic – with ice-cream, to say their goodbyes and thank you to Miss Yarahmadi. Some may well be moving to the same secondary school, but leaving primary education is a step, which needs to be marked, remembered and celebrated.

The Year 6 Music video will certainly help provide a lasting memory for all our leavers. Thank you to Miss Yarahmadi for all your hard work in bringing this together and making it so special.

Mrs Stack

Today we say farewell and thank you to Mrs Stack after what must have been the most 'extraordinary' maternity cover job – EVER! Mrs Stack has certainly had a jam-packed year with leaky roofs, OFSTED as a Christmas present, supply teachers coming and going, 2 headteachers and then a pandemic!

It is testament to Mrs Stack that she has stayed so calm, kept her sense of humour but most of all cared. She is a passionate Early Years teacher, who always wants what is best for children – Willow Class, you have been very lucky indeed.

Today we have presented to Mrs Stack, a bouquet of her favourite blooms – sunflowers, and a set of beautiful fairy lights – rainbow coloured of course!

We wish you all the very best Mrs Stack – wherever you go next – we say goodbye and send you with our love and a HUGE Singleton cheer.



The Wonderful Staff at Singleton

Mrs Abadion, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Blott, Mrs Holt, Mrs Nelmes, Mrs Sharpe, Mrs Snow, Mrs Stack, Mr Staples, Mrs Turner, Miss Yarahmadi and Ms Williams and Kelly, Lindsey and Amba from Chartwells (and the team in Singleton Playschool too)

Thank you so much – you have been FABULOUS!

You have all worked so hard, supported one another brilliantly, cared, listened, laughed, and kept your sense of humour during what can only be described as, 'a bit of a year'.

On behalf of the Governors, for all that you do, to make Singleton the place it is – thank you.

And finally, on a personal note – way back when in October 2019, I accepted the Headship at Singleton. January came and on the advice of an old colleague, I started to keep a diary of my first year of Headship. Who knew there would be a whole chapter called – The Pandemic Months!

As I start to wind down and reflect a little – I want you to know that however strange and challenging the past few months have been – I can honestly say I am the luckiest Headteacher EVER!

To have supportive families, gorgeous, funny children, governors who care and a staff team who have quietly and kindly allowed me to settle in, find my place at Singleton and provide the support I need – it is no wonder I feel so blessed and look forward to the next year with continued optimism and excitement. To each and every one of you – thank you.

I pray that each of you has a safe, healthy, and happy summer. To those who are due to return in September, we look forward to our time together again. To those off to pastures new, we wish you every success and send you with our love and best wishes.

Take great care

Theresa Smyth

xxx

