



Weaverthorpe CE (VC) Primary School
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Head Teacher: Mrs Rachel Ray



Wednesday 14th July 2021

Dear Parents

As we near the end of this school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole of our school community for helping to make our school year at Weaverthorpe a very happy and successful one.

Our whole staff team have worked so well together and we are proud of what we have achieved. The children only this week, have enjoyed the Reptiles visit, or in the case of our older children, they loved the trip to Wykeham Lakes. There have been many other opportunities for the children to enjoy school life and their learning and we have been delighted to see how the children have responded so well. We have also been delighted to welcome Mrs Bowman to the staff team too.

As parents, we have appreciated your support throughout the year – especially during the period of remote learning. School and home made an excellent team! I am also very grateful too for the support from the Friends of Weaverthorpe this year, whose fundraising has supported many of the school events. A particular thank you goes to Jill Cade, who I know has been a key member of the group. Thank you for all you have done Jill over the years you have been part of the Weaverthorpe family. I know you will be missed.

The children most importantly, have done themselves proud – approached their learning with courage and resilience, demonstrating friendship, love and kindness towards each other – our new school values which have been thoroughly embedded in all that we did this year.

Our Interim Governing Board have also worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Our Governors have worked very closely with me and have been instrumental in ensuring key decision making has been appropriate and supported our move towards achieving our school development priorities. I know that some of you who attended the virtual meeting on the subject of the future of the school earlier this year, met some of the Governors, albeit virtually, and understood from that meeting, how committed they are in ensuring the community is supported as decisions are made regarding the future of the school. I know that a few parents have recently asked about information regarding this. As advised in our earlier letter, the LA and Diocese continue to explore future options for the school in the absence of an Academy sponsor. This is ongoing and will continue to progress into the next school year. Please be assured that we will keep you updated as soon as we have more to share but regardless of these discussions, we will look forward to welcoming you back in September and for the duration of the 2021/22 school year.

We have received some understandable queries regarding the purchase of new school uniform for next year. Just as we have fully embedded our new school values this year, we believe that our uniform is also a key part in helping us to feel part of our school, to be proud to be at Weaverthorpe, whilst ensuring that children are wearing clothes appropriate to the school environment. I would ask parents therefore to bear in mind our school uniform policy which outlines expectations for uniform when you are making your uniform purchases for next year. We expect all pupils to wear blue Weaverthorpe jumpers or cardigans, grey or black trousers or skirts/dresses and black, flat school shoes. For more detail, our policy can be found on the school website or do ask Mrs Mitchell if you would like a printed copy.

As we enter the final week of term, with Covid restrictions being lifted in England, we will be keeping our Covid measures in place for the last week of term. It is concerning to read about rising numbers of Covid Infections and also about the amount of schools it is affecting. It is with this in mind therefore, that whilst we will be going to church on Wednesday 21st July for our Leavers Service, I respectfully request that the invitation for parents to join us is now just for the parents of our year 6 pupils. It is their special event which we would like to share with all parents, but I am keen, as I am sure you will be too, to avoid non-essential social mixing which could cause Covid infections for our whole school community as we head into the start of the holiday.

Finally, as we look towards next term, we have got exciting plans already! We are embarking on a new Curriculum, will be continuing to develop our teaching of Reading and Phonics throughout school and have already got a couple of trips planned for the children! As far as reading is concerned, we are now collecting in all reading books from the children. If you do happen to have any school books at home, we would be grateful if you could bring them back into school before the end of term. We are going to be completing a thorough audit of the books we currently have in school and then purchasing some more new books which will be phonetically decodable and at the appropriate phonic phase for our younger children. From next September, we will continue our focus on promoting a love of books and reading and as part of this, will be asking children to read on a regular basis at both home and school. The children will all be given a new reading record to bring home in September which is to be completed to record reading at home and at school. As ever, partnership working between home and school always works so well in helping the children take full advantage of their time in school.

We really look forward to continuing our journey with you all in September. I must however, also take this opportunity to say a fond farewell, to Mrs Stockill and Miss Addis together with our two fabulous Year 6 pupils, Finlay and Winnie. We wish them all the very best for the future and are very proud of all that they have achieved during their time with us at Weaverthorpe.

If I do not get a chance to see you in person before next Friday, we very much look forward to seeing you all back again in September. The teachers will have a training day on Monday 6th September and we will welcome the children back on Tuesday 7th September.

I wish you and your families a wonderful summer.

With best regards

Rachel Ray