

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

The end of the school year is a time of change. As I write this, teachers are already moving things to their new classrooms, the walls are bare and we have already filled our wheelie bins that were emptied this morning.

Change is both exciting and frightening. Even as teachers chat animatedly about plans for next year, there are moments of quiet as the changes ahead are contemplated.

Today, for your children, it is all about the upcoming holidays, plans to catch up with friends, maybe an opportunity to go away, a chance to see family you have not been able to see.

Today is an occasion to celebrate all the things that your children have done this year, to congratulate them on their adaptability and resolve through the most extraordinary of years – they have been amazing.

As we close this academic year, I would want to reiterate something that I shared often during lockdown. Your children are all different and we love it that way. Each of us is unique, I believe made that way by God. Your family circumstances are all different, the things you are managing and the challenges you face. Each of your children has been wonderful this year, they have worked hard, managed their own challenges and achieved their own successes. In a year where children's mental health is front and central, they have worked with us and with yourselves to continue to grow and flourish.

Next year will no doubt bring its own challenges, but today is a celebration of the past year, a chance to celebrate the uniqueness of your child and all that they are.

In Collective Worship today I reminded the children of the Bible story where the wise man builds his house on the rock, which means that when trials and tribulations come, he can stand firm. At The Blake, our Christian ethos and the values we focus on each month provide a sure and solid foundation for us all to grow and meet the challenges that we face. I commend those values to you all.

Have a great summer – I am looking forward to working with you all in 2021/22.

Farewell Mrs Hitchman

Today, the staff are saying a sad farewell to Mrs Julie Hitchman, a member of our admin team.

Julie's association with the school goes back to its first days on the current site almost 40 years ago! Julie began as a parent volunteer but has now been employed by the school for 29 years.

Julie has seen many changes come and go and her role has transformed over the past three decades. Her role now covers everything from attendance to flu vaccines, admissions to photographs, lunches to trip payments. As one of the longest serving members of staff it is no surprise that the poem written to mark her retirement was entitled "The fount of all knowledge".

We will miss Julie enormously, her quiet sense of order and her meticulous eye for detail have brought calm across the school to generations of families. Thank you Julie, for everything.



Congratulations to Miss Main

I am delighted to share with you that Miss Main is expecting a Christmas day baby!

Miss Main will not therefore have a class of her own next year, but will be working across the school until the start of her maternity leave. She will also be supporting our two new teachers in Year 6 as they settle in.

We are looking forward to using Miss Main's expertise across the school.