

Dear Parents/Carers

SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

As we come to the end of an academic year, the like of which I have never experienced in over 40 years of working in education, I need to say a big 'THANK YOU' to so many people and celebrate the work of our pupils.

I am sure that you will agree, that your child's classroom staff have done an incredible job and I am extremely grateful for their valiant efforts – always putting children first. The quality of teaching and learning in classrooms has continued to improve and additional classroom resources are readily accessible.

The children are always a joy to see and their work is amazing. Two particular highlights were the 'Celebration of Kindness' 3-dimensional sculpture and more recently the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) project, that explored modes of transport for our summer holidays! Although learning has been severely disrupted over the year and Exam accreditation put on 'hold', a couple of our students successfully completed their online Functional Skills Exams – well done and congratulations! The grand student finale has been the musical extravaganza with children performing to their peers within the safety of their Key Stage 'bubble'.

Another big thank you is due to all parents and carers as none of the above successes and achievements would have been possible without your help and support in so many different ways. Sadly, it has not been possible to 'open the doors' and welcome you into school. However, you have always been there, whether in the car park with a 'cheery hello', attending online parent courses, 'virtual meetings' and on the end of a phone line: Thank you.

I am very hopeful that early in the new academic year, there will be every opportunity for you to visit the school and see your child's classroom and meet staff. There has been a considerable investment in the learning environment, in the strong belief our children deserve the very best. Significant levels of technology have been introduced, along with our new learning library that is accessible to all children. The Primary playground area is being refurbished with a range of new equipment and there is an additional sensory room for the younger children which will be available in September.

The school has invested in a Therapy Dog called Pepper. The benefit to many young people is incredible; however, it is important that both dog handlers and Pepper undergo some training. Please do get in contact if you have any particular concerns.

The end of an academic year inevitably means we have some 'Leavers'. We wish all our leavers, whether staff or students every success and happiness in their new journey and hopefully at some point in the future they will return to the Arbour Vale family.

Please note the attached list of School holiday dates for 2021/2022. There is possibly an additional day to be granted in celebration of HM Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee and I will confirm the date early in September.

Wishing you and your family an enjoyable & safe summer holiday.

NEIL SYKES
Principal