

Junior School

Infant School

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High Down Schools

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Executive Headteacher

Mrs A Cowan

19th July 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here we are again at the end of another hugely successful and incredibly busy year- where does the time go! Having attended the Y2 concert about the 'Magic Moments' that occur within a year, it made me consider the huge range of activities that take place within both schools on an annual basis, including the trips and the large number of visitors coming to school to work with the children. The recent arts week at the Junior School was wonderful and really showcased our children's talents and the Infant sports week has been very enjoyable and has enabled the children to try a range of sporting activities. We have had many sporting successes this year including winning the Portishead swimming gala for the 7th year in succession and many musical achievements including the wonderful concerts and year group performances.

We have been delighted by the progress the children have made this year across all year groups. We are so proud of all the children; they have been amazing and have risen to all challenges with a 'can do' attitude. They are a credit to you and we are very proud of how they have conducted themselves this year. Visitors to our school have commented on the children's positive attitude toward their learning and noted how the school values are firmly embedded in school life.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their dedication, their constant enthusiasm and their commitment to always improving the provision for our children. I feel very privileged to be leading such an incredibly strong team of professionals.

Thank you all for your support both in class and at home; I truly believe that our strong partnership ensures our excellent provision. I would also like to say a fond 'tearful' farewell to our Y6 children. They have made huge progress through their years with us and Gordano School are very lucky to be gaining such a talented group of children - they were fantastic during the 'We'll Meet Again' production. I am constantly impressed by the enthusiasm, self-assurance and exuberance of our children and although we know it is time for them to move on, we will miss them all.

We also have three members of staff who are moving on and I would like to take a moment just to thank them on your behalf.

Miss Jones will be leaving the Infant School after three very successful years teaching in Y2 and reception. We wish her well in her new role at Trinity School.

Mrs Ryan is retiring after 20 years at the school. The children of 3R described her in our 'farewell' service as, "A fantastic teacher who is kind and caring and challenges us and helps us learn more and feel confident". We are very pleased that Mrs Ryan will be continuing to support us as a supply teacher from September.

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Mrs Parker is also retiring from High Down after 30 years working here as a teacher, Deputy, Head and recently as Associate Headteacher across both schools. I would like to thank Mrs Parker for her dedication and inspirational leadership that has enabled the school to thrive. The work Mrs Parker has led on our values and learning powers has made a real difference to our schools demonstrating how her focus is always on the development of the whole child.

Mrs Parker has ensured that the performing arts have continued to be a major aspect of our broad and balanced curriculum. Her passion and musical prowess are clear to see and she has ensured that our children have been able to sing, play instruments and participate in performances not just in school but at large events such as Colston Hall and throughout our community. I am sure you will agree that these are the precious memories that the children take into adulthood and we thank her for this.

We are delighted that Mrs Parker is coming in to teach maths with some of our Y6 and you will be pleased to hear that she is continuing the upper school choir who will sing at our Harvest Festival and Christmas services at St Peters.

I hope you all have a wonderful break and that we continue to be blessed by the good weather and I look forward to continuing to work with you all next year.



Mrs Andrey Cowan
Executive Headteacher

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