

14th July 2022

Headteacher Letter

This is, without a doubt the saddest letter I have written to parents. Instead of the usual end of year newsletter, I am saying goodbye to you all. I have had the privilege of being headteacher of Whaddon School since September 2015 and have the fondest memories to take with me.

I entered the school, which at the time consisted of the hall, main building, 2 playgrounds, a field and a car park, half the size it is now.

Year 2s classroom was the bottom of the hall and they had to decamp each day for lunch, assembly and PE sessions. Parents immediately told me they loved the school and wished it went beyond Year 2. I soon realised that the important aspects of the school were sound: a great staff and children eager to learn, and a wonderful setting. What a challenge I had ahead of me, and what opportunities!

When working hard each day, we rarely stop and consider our achievements. Instead, we focus on problems to overcome and what we are trying to achieve next. However, seven years on, we can see the impact of our efforts. Being blessed with a wonderful team of staff who I can honestly say are friends as well as colleagues, we worked together over the years to establish resource rich, outdoor learning environments, new classrooms, a Forest School area and an inspiring learning practice for the early years, Key Stage 1 and now lower Key Stage 2. The links with the local community ensure the school is at the heart of the village and our latest acquisition of a mini-bus enables the children to experience learning opportunities further afield.

We are now able to offer schooling up to 11 years and I will be excited to see (if only from the sidelines) the school develop to a full primary. The children I taught in my first reception year at Whaddon are about to start secondary school and this feels a fitting point for my time to end.

I will always be grateful to the kind, loyal families who believed in us and what we were accomplishing and for recognising and appreciating how happy their children were at Whaddon School. I will probably be a blubbing mess on Friday evening but the many hugs I am getting from children at the moment and all the kind words are keeping me going.

It has been an absolute pleasure to have been headteacher of such a special place. Despite trials and tribulations along the way, I still maintain this has been the best job ever.

Thankyou children for being so wonderful everyday. For enjoying learning so much. For your kind and caring ways and for letting me share this precious time with you. Thankyou parents for your trust, support, humour and for taking this journey with us.

I will miss you all.

Selina Davies

Headteacher of Whaddon CE School