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'Educating For Life In All Its Fullness'

End of Year Message 2023

Dear Families,

Today marks the end of another school year. The children have been fantastic in their efforts to learn, make progress, be good friends and be their best selves.

During the year, it has been great to be able to welcome families to things like class performances, sports day, the Coronation celebrations, the end of year concert, open days and our weekly celebration assemblies. The PTA have also done a fabulous job at arranging events in addition to these to bring families together including the Easter Bingo and the recent Summer Fair. They have also organised events for the children including the Pumpkin Party and film nights. These events, beyond the normal school offering, really help build a sense of community and enjoyment. Thank you to everyone who organised and supported these.

It is only when you look back at the photos from the year and the Tweets on the Twitter feed that you realise how much has happened during the year in terms of trips, performances, visitors and practical classroom activities. Please have a look if you get a moment (www.harewood.leeds.sch.uk)

Earlier in the year the dedication of the staff and the children was rewarded with a successful OFSTED visit where school was praised for its caring, inclusive ethos, the quality of teaching observed and the attitudes of the children. A judgement of 'Good' does not come easy for small schools under the current OFSTED framework, so this was a pleasing outcome and external validation of the way school works, day in and day out.

At the end of an incredibly busy year for them, I would like to thank all the staff in school for their dedication this year. As ever, everyone has gone beyond their contracted duties and hours to do the best they can for the children. Staff have often been in school very early on a morning, late on an evening and worked through weekends and holidays too, to plan learning, make resources and organise activities to inspire, motivate and support each child to do their best. In a small school, like Harewood, where we do not have many staff, everyone has to take on more roles and to work so much harder and smarter than they would have to in a larger organisation but it is our size that gives us our sense of community and ability to nurture in a way that larger schools cannot.

On behalf of the adults at Harewood, can I also say thank you for all the very generous gifts people have given us. We appreciate the time this took to organise, the thoughts behind them and the lovely messages in cards.

At the end of the year, we have to say goodbye to our fantastic Year 6 and the other children leaving us over the summer. You have been a fabulous group, have worked well together, grown together and we will miss you. We wish you all a bright future in whatever you choose to do. Please remember your time at Harewood and the friendships you made. You will all be brill.

Have a great summer.

Mr Ratcliffe.

