

September 2013

Dear Readers,

What a wonderful warm summer we have had. It was great to be able to greet the children on the first day of the autumn term knowing they'd been able to be out playing in the sunshine for weeks on end.

Before the new academic year gets further underway, I can't let the old year go without mentioning the pupils who left us last July. They worked extremely hard, were well taught, had strong support from their parents and took real pleasure in being challenged and achieving well ... and they did! Our 2013 SATs' results were our best ever! Over 90% of them gained a level 4 or above in reading and maths and in the new grammar punctuation and spelling test 88% of them got level 4 or above. These results are much better than the national averages. Consequently I'm pleased to say they left us fully prepared for the next stage of their education. Wherever they've gone, they will always be Geoffrey Field pupils. We're proud of them and wish them well in their new schools.

In the next couple of days all our SATs' results will be on the web site. Please take a look. They make good reading.

Now to the new school year . . .

Needless to say, if children are going to achieve well at school, they have to enjoy coming. Having great teachers who make learning enjoyable is at the heart of what we do, but it is also very important to create opportunities children to make choices. It puts them in the driving seat and lets them begin to take real control of their education as well as making choices about what to do when lessons are over. For this reason, we run more clubs than any other primary school I know and I'm sure you'll be pleased to know, we are increasing the number over the coming year.

I wrote to you last term to say how important we feel it is to promote sport and sporting competition in school. Consequently, we are increasing the number of professionals who come into our school to teach sport and next week we will be sending you details of an exciting course will be running during the school day for our new year 3s. This will involve sports professionals and the head of Reading University's art department working together with the children's teachers. We are also looking for parents to help with an early morning physical programme for the Y3s. If you are interested, please come in and let us know or you can catch me on the gate in the morning if that's easier.

Finally, I'd like to stress how important it is that you continue to support us in helping your children as they progress through the school. Last term two parents showed a real interest in coming in to school to help with the teaching of reading. They became our 'reading champions' and made a huge difference to the children they worked with. This year, we'd like to recruit some more of you, so, if you're interested, please let us know. We will give you lots of training and make sure you feel prepared and it is such a worthwhile thing to do.

I wish you all a very happy year ahead.

