

17th July 2017

Dear Parents / Carers

Well, we are fast approaching the end of another fantastic year and it is amazing to reflect on all the activities, events and achievements the children have been part of this year. They have worked incredibly hard and it is lovely to see our school values (determination and patience; kindness; respect; courage and bravery; happiness and joy; teamwork; independence) being displayed on a daily basis. Congratulations to our Year 6's who are our first cohort of pupils to leave school with their Do and Discover books and badges; demonstrating many of our school values.

The Big Sleuth Trail

Individually designed bear sculptures are appearing throughout the city. The challenge is on for who can find the most bears and most importantly our very own Weather Bear can be found in the Mailbox. Have fun bear hunting!

Poets and we didn't know it!

41 of our children have had their poems chosen to be published, out of over 11,000 entrants of the Young Writers, Poetry Safari Competition. These poems will be published in the Poetry Safari – Poets for West Midlands on the 30th September 2017. Well done to all of those children that contributed. I look forward to reading them.

Fund Raising

This year we have been working hard raising money for a new minibus. Our aim is to raise £14 000, to date we have raised over £4,600. Thank you for all your support and we will continue on our quest next academic year.

100% Attendance

Congratulations to the following pupils on achieving 100% attendance this academic year:

Joe, Thomas, Ciaran, Aniyah, Callum W and Xu.

Key Dates

Teacher Training Days – Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th September 2017, and Friday 22nd September 2017.

Parents Evening – Monday 16th October 2017.

Goodbyes

Goodbyes are inevitable at this time of year; firstly we say goodbye to our year 6 pupils who are all heading off to their new secondary schools. I'm sure they will be very successful and we look forward to hearing all about how they are getting on. Secondly, we also say goodbye to a number of staff:

Lucy Kinsella - Principle Care Officer & Strategic Development Manager. After 23 years at Dame Ellen Pinsent Lucy has decided it is time for a different direction in life. She has always brought energy and enthusiasm in her numerous different roles within school.

James Brown – Deputy Head Teacher. Mr Brown has been at Dame Ellen Pinsent for 8 years and had many different roles. He has brought many wonderful skills and experiences to the school and we wish him all the best with his imminent emigration to the sunnier climes of Australia.

Stuart Hammersley – Class Teacher and Computing lead. Mr H has been at Dame Ellen for 8 years. He has been instrumental in the development of the iPads at Dame Ellen and as a result of Stuart's hard work the school has been recognised with Apple's Regional Training Status. Stuart takes his experience onto the role of Director of Technologies at a school in London.

Faith Gallon – Class Teacher. Over her 16 years at Dame Ellen Mrs Gallon has done some fantastic work in different roles including class teacher and Head of Department. Mrs Gallon's new school will give her experience of different types of SEN children and enable her to work at a school closer to home.

Claire Caley – Class Teacher. Mrs Caley has worked as a class teacher at Dame Ellen for 7 years; she has also supported our iPad work and training for other schools. We now wish her well on her new journey as a supply teacher.

I'm sure you would like to join with me in saying a massive thank you to the above staff for all they have done over the years. They have enriched the lives of many children that have come through Dame Ellen Pinsent School. We wish you all well in your journeys near and far!

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish Melissa and Sarah well as they start their maternity leaves over the coming months.

Finally, I would like to thank you as parents for all your support and wish you all a very pleasant and peaceful summer holiday and look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 6th September.

Yours faithfully

Miss Denise Fountain

Head Teacher