

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



HEADTEACHER
Mr A Johnson

17TH December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Well - we made it, and relatively unscathed in comparison to other schools both locally and nationally, which hopefully means we can all enjoy our Christmas break with family and friends.

The last week of term has been a busy one, with the Nativity, the Christingle and Carol Competition all being performed, filmed and uploaded for your enjoyment. We also had the Santa Dash, which was a festival of good sportsmanship, the school Christmas Dinner, which was a festival of food and one or two class parties, which were festivals of overindulgence! I'll never stop being surprised by the amount of 'refreshments' children can ingest - and sincerely hope they managed to keep it all down once returned to your company.

In the penultimate week of term, we held our Bake Sale to raise a little money and the goodies on the stalls were amazing, and at only 20p a pop, an absolute bargain! I would like to publically thank the following for their donations on the day, which made the entire enterprise the roaring and tasty success it was:

Belles
Dorset Cake Co
Weyco
Morrisons
Sainsburys
Co-Op (Curtis Fields)
Tesco (Lanehouse)
Londis (Abbotsbury Road)
Food Warehouse

It's always very heart-warming when relative strangers are happy to help out or donate to support others.

I'll end by simply wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas - stay safe, stay well and we'll see you in the New Year!

My best wishes to you all.

Mr A Johnson
HEADTEACHER



Letter from the Governors

What a strange time it has been for everyone - not least in schools. The governors had got used to meeting via zoom which, although not ideal, did mean we were able to continue with all our business for school. Then this term we have been back meeting in person which is so much better for us all, especially as it often included cake! However here we are in December and we are back to zoom again due to new regulations.

The governors have all been able to take part in training on line from the National Governance Association and the National College in the past few months and in particular have updated their Safeguarding training.

As you will know, we had an election for two parent governors who joined our December meeting and we were happy to welcome Mr Brad Turner and Mrs Elizabeth Williamson. Most of the governors had not met them previously and, from their point of view, it is not so easy to feel part of the group when you are sitting in your own home. However, we did our best to welcome them to the board but we are looking forward to meeting them in person - hopefully next term. Rebecca Fuller who was a parent governor, has now become a co-opted governor as her daughter is in year 7. I have been elected Chair for a further 2 years and Steve Dewey is now our vice chair. Angela Matthews continues as the local authority governor, and Tracey Hodder, Laura Parsons and Julie Crane continue as co-opted governors plus Donna Newport has been re-elected as staff governor.

All governors act together as the Governing board and have 3 main functions - they oversee the financial performance of the school, ensuring the money is well spent. They also hold leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the effective performance management of the staff. But first and foremost, they ensure a clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school. To this end we have worked hard over the past 2 years to put in place a strategy that pulls together all the things that make Conifers the unique school it is. It mentions, for example Thrive, LEARN, Right Respecting and Learning Outside the Classroom. This document is now on our website so that everyone can see who we are and what we stand for. At the end of the document, you can see the improvement priorities we are striving towards in the next few years.

I would like to wish you and your children a very happy festive season and hope that you are able to spend it with the people you love. We look forward to a healthy 2022 when we can all meet up again at Parents' Evenings and other group activities as we really miss talking to you all and welcoming you into the school.

Dorothy Woods on behalf of the Governing Board



