News from Cumnor School

Summer Term Number 13 ***21st July 2023***

Dear Parents,

After an emotional week, it is now time for some of us to say goodbye and offer a huge thank you to everyone at Cumnor School.

First of all, goodbye to our year 6 children. They have all done so well during their time at Cumnor and grown up into wonderful, sensible and considerate young people. The leavers' service yesterday and the leavers' assembly today were both testament to the wonderful way in which they now conduct themselves and I am sure they will go on to achieve great things both at secondary school and beyond.

We also said goodbye this week to several members of staff. Firstly Mrs Heffernan and Mrs Merrill. Both ladies have been working at Cumnor for around 10 years, giving so many children the benefit of their wisdom, support and kindness. They will both be missed enormously but we are so grateful for everything they have given the children of Cumnor whilst they have been with us.

Mrs Axford will also be leaving Cumnor, after 17 years, to be the Headteacher of her own school. I need not say how loved Mrs Axford is, as well as how enthusiastic and talented she is. She is quite a remarkable lady. I know she too will be enormously missed here, and the community at Alvescot are extremely lucky to have her with them now.

I am now leaving Cumnor too. This fantastic school and all it stands for is very dear to my heart and has been a major part of my life for so long. I have absolutely loved being Headteacher here and have always enjoyed coming to work. The whole community is very special and none more so than our wonderful staff, all of whom are so talented, committed to the school and have been wonderful to work with. I am sure you appreciate how special they are and I know that whilst they are here, the culture and ethos we have developed together will continue and will remain at the core of the school.

The farewell BBQ on Friday summed up what a wonderful place I will be leaving. The parents here have always been so welcoming, friendly and supportive, making my job so much easier and more straightforward. It was really lovely to see so many families on Friday evening, both those with children here now, and those with children who left many years ago, all coming back to say goodbye. It made Diane and I feel very special and so appreciated. We both want to say a huge thank you for your amazingly generous gifts too. You are very kind and we have both said that the vouchers you gave us will take quite some time to spend! So, whenever we use them, we will be thinking of the wonderful times we have had at Cumnor.

It has been a privilege to lead such a great school and I will miss working with such a brilliant group of staff, governors and pupils. I know that the school will continue to thrive under Steven Badger, and I look forward to reading and hearing about its continued successes long into the future.

Thank you once again for all your encouragement and support.

With my very best wishes to you all,

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