



Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

20th July 2020

To all the pupils of SPCEDS,

Thank you!

Over the past few weeks I have been starting to plan for September, for the new academic year, for us all being back together again as a family and a community, something I am really looking forward to – I have really missed seeing you all each day. You will all know by now your teachers for next year. However planning for next year made me reflect on some of the events and occasions we shared this year whilst still at school, happy memories that will stay with me for a long time. As such I wanted to share these memories with each of you and let you know how important you all are as part of SPCEDS.



At the start of the academic year I was excited to be out on the gate each morning (and evening) welcoming you all back to school – something I am also looking forward to in September. It was fantastic seeing you all returning, so proud and so smart in your school uniforms. September always brings new pupils and it was great to be able to welcome 80 smiling faces to our Foundation Stage. I

enjoyed seeing each of you, talking to you and your families, wishing you good morning or good evening, hearing about things that have been happening at home, seeing older siblings who I've taught in the past and just being part of your day. To be honest it is one of the most fantastic parts of my job – to be part of your lives and your learning journey's. Whilst I am very sad to be saying goodbye to our fabulous Year 6 pupils this year (hopefully we will be able to see each other again, more details to follow in September) I am thrilled to be able to welcome more new faces and their families to SPCEDS.



Clay Lake, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 2QG

Tel: 01775 722333

enquiries@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk

www.spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk

Follow us on Twitter: @SPCEDS

Head Teacher: Diane Mulley

During Term 1 I visited each of you in your classrooms to share a story at the end of the day. Some of you talked to me about what you were looking forward to during the school year whilst some of you talked to me about your hopes and aspirations for the future. We had some really good discussions about the different books I shared and it was a real privilege to be able to spend time with you in your new classrooms. I was able to see, first hand, how well you had all coped with moving up to new Year Groups and new Phases, how you had got used to new routines and new adults and how you had helped to support new pupils to school – so many of you proved to be such fabulous role models, thank you! To see how you had all matured from the previous academic year and how you coped with transition from one year group to the next was simply amazing. It is always sad to leave a year group and staff members behind but I was simply in awe at the way you all coped so well. I have no doubt that, come this September, very similar scenes will be evident across school. I'm also looking forward to be able to share new stories with you all, as soon as that is able to happen.



Another fabulous day in the early part of the year was our Roald Dahl Day celebration in the form of 'Roald Dahl Day' – such a surreal day to be surrounded by Roald Dahl characters, Fantastic Foxes, Enormous Crocodiles, Willy Wonkas and Oompa Loompas to name but a few. In fact it was just one of a number of theme days we celebrated over the course of the year and I do look forward to such events as they are always so well planned by the adults and all of you contribute so well throughout these days. Hopefully we will be able to celebrate some amazing events next year. I have to say there really were some fabulous costumes that day – your parents and carers never cease to amaze me with their creativity, thank you to them too – and some fantastic activities undertaken across all year groups and classrooms, all focussed on the fantastic work of Roald Dahl. I can't wait to hear about the books and the authors you have been reading whilst we haven't been able to be together. I've managed to read a couple of books, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon and *The Book Thief* by Markus Zus. I must admit I do enjoy reading children's books and look forward to finding the time to read a couple more before we return to school after the summer break. I also know, given the importance of reading, that staff are working hard on their reading areas within their classrooms. Reading can really open up a whole world of knowledge and so we hope class reading areas will really encourage a love of reading and engage you all in reading this year. We all look forward to sharing these with you on your return to school.

Soon it was October and I continued to visit classrooms to see what each of you were learning as part of your learning journeys. Year 6 were learning all about World War I whilst in Year 5 you were learning all about Space. In Year 4 you were learning all about the Anglo Saxons and the Vikings whilst in



Year 3 you were all learning about the Stone Age. For those of you in Key Stage 1, you were learning about Medieval Times, including looking at castles, in Year 2 whilst Year 1 learnt all about Florence Nightingale. Many of you took part in experience days as part of your learning or went on trips linked to your topic. Whilst your learning during the next academic year might look slightly different, the staff are all working very hard to ensure that it is as exciting and engaging as it was last year and I'm really looking forward to seeing and hearing about your learning and being part of your learning journeys come the new academic year.



November arrived and staff were very busy writing all about your achievements since September in our first cycle of termly reports and in readiness for our first Parent Consultation evenings of the year. I must admit I really enjoyed reading all of your reports – I read every single one for all of you each cycle, over 1,500 reports a year and comment on them at least once a year – and hearing all about your achievements since the last report. At this point in the year I met with your teachers too to talk about your progress and they all told me all about your strengths, who's good at Maths, and English and Art and PE and all the other subjects, so many talented pupils. Once the reports had been sent home we welcomed your parents and carers into school to tell them how you were doing, the progress you had made and the areas you still needed to be working on – hopefully you'll have been practising some of these things from the reports your teachers sent out in March. It is always good to have your parents and carers in school – they are such an important part of our school community – after all if we didn't have them, none



of you would be here as part of the Spalding Parish family. I really looked forward to seeing your families and talking to them about you, getting to know you all just that little bit more with each year that passes. This year was no different and the staff and I had a wonderful couple of evenings celebrating each of you and your achievements – thank you and well done to you all!

Then before we knew it, it was December and Christmas was almost upon us. School was a very busy place with numerous rehearsals for performances for parents and lots of festive activities going on around school. We had a week of performances for our Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 families and I was so proud of each and every one of you and



how you excelled in each and every performance. From the narrators, to the singers, to the dancers, you were all amazing! You spoke so clearly, sang so beautifully and danced so enthusiastically (like no one was watching). I know every single member of the audience in each performance thought you were wonderful, many of them said so after the performances, and I wholeheartedly agreed with them. The following week brought our annual Carol Concert for our Key Stage 2 pupils at the Parish Church. That evening I again was filled with such pride to be the Head Teacher of SPCEDS, your Head Teacher. You were all so composed and came across so confident, even though I know for some of you standing up at the front of church to read in front of hundreds of people filled you with dread. It was a beautiful occasion, a real celebration of the true meaning of Christmas, told in such a sensitive way with such beautiful singing throughout – this did truly astound me especially given how difficult some of the songs were (and my own very limited singing ability). I remain hopeful that we will be able to hold such celebrations this year, although this may look slightly different. For now we will just have to wait and see!



After a well deserved Christmas break – you had all worked so hard during Terms 1 and 2 – 2020 and Term 3 arrived. This term we introduced a new assessment system into school and I have to admit you never ceased to amaze me with your commitment to learning, your positivity and your can do approach. In fact it was evident throughout this term that you genuinely tried to live out all of our Learning Powers – Concentrate, Don't give up, Be cooperative, Be curious, Have a go, Use your imagination, Keep improving, Enjoy learning – each and every day. Even though some of the assessments and activities were challenging and different to how we had approached things previously, you all just took this in your stride, you had a go, you took a risk, you didn't give up and you tried your best. It was clear you had all worked very hard and were rewarded for your efforts with staff then planning to teach, in Term 4, the things you didn't yet know. This information has been shared with your new teachers so each of you, when you return to school in September, will be able to start where you left off and build on your knowledge and skills. Please try not to worry about this, after all it is the same for every one and every one is going to be experiencing the same thing. You've got this!

One of my favourite events within the school day and in the school calendar is our daily Collective Worship and termly Acts of Worship at St Mary and St Nicolas Parish Church. It is the one time that we all come together as one, one family, one community, and share time together, time to listen together, time to reflect together, time to just be together. For me it is such a valuable time as it is time that I get to spend with each and every one of you, my school, my family and to see a sea of purple stretched out in front of me, 530+ pupils proudly wearing our uniform and 'Proud to be Parish'. I am thankful that I am able to be part of that each day.

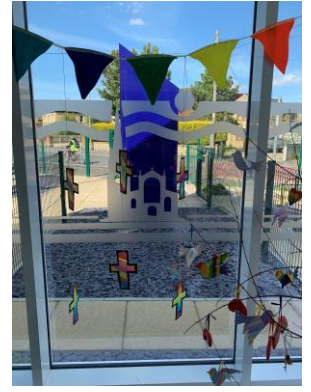


During this academic year we joined a larger family when we became an academy in December joining the LAAT family of 16 schools (Lincoln Anglican Academies Trust) and in February the whole school community were involved in a Church Service welcoming the school formally to the Trust. It was a really lovely occasion, made even better by the fact that all of us were there together. Thank you all for your involvement and for the part you played.

All too soon it was March and that was when things changed. I felt genuinely sad leading up to the days when school closed but even in the face of uncertainty, I was encouraged by all of you. Even though we were apart, you were all still very much a part of our school community. Your emails, photos, videos and contact, while we have been keeping safe at home or in school, have lifted my spirits every day and it has been wonderful to see or hear about the things you have been doing whilst we have been apart. I have heard from many of you - either directly, through contact with parents, or seeing you about - thank you for this, it is greatly appreciated. For others the class teachers have been keeping me informed. From the work completed as part of the learning projects, to other activities that you have been doing at home - I know many of you are now keen gardeners and bakers and so many of you can now ride a bike, such amazing achievements - to the entries to the fortnightly SPCEDS challenges. It has been wonderful to hear from you, to hear your stories, to know how you are doing and that you are safe and well. I am so looking forward to us being back together again.



Finally I just want to finish by saying how proud I am of each and every one of you. Whilst challenging at times, being a Head Teacher, indeed your Head Teacher, is so rewarding, each day I am able to play a part in shaping the lives of children and young people, your lives. Day in, day out you inspire me to be the best Head Teacher I can be, all whilst smiling and having fun together. I enjoyed every day we spent together in school, every aspect of the time we were together and the activities and experiences that we shared and am looking forward to more of these events and occasions in the future. It is exciting to think that perhaps this is not too far away now, to seeing you all, to talking and listening to you all and ultimately to helping you all grow.



Whilst you may not know it or fully recognise it, each and every one of you brings something special to our school community, to the Spalding Parish family. You have different skills and talents, you enjoy different things (and dislike different things too!) and have different interests. You find different things funny and have different personalities, you have different insights and different questions, different thoughts and different responses. Some of you are creative, some of you are sporty, some of you are inquisitive, whilst all of you are inspirational, inspiring us all every day. This is what makes each and every one of you unique and what makes SPCEDS special. We are all different but we celebrate uniqueness and difference and Spalding Parish is the place it is because of each of you, because you are all a part of our community.



You all made me very proud each and every day when we were together and have continued to make me proud whilst we have been apart. The experience of this year is something that will be written in history and children in years to come will be studying about you. As this school year comes to a close, a school year as no other, remember all of the experiences you have had which have shaped you and helped you grow, embrace them and strive for more in the next part of your journey – I look forward to being a part of it. Enjoy the summer break and I will see you all in September.



Kind Regards,

Mrs Mulley 😊
Head Teacher



Clay Lake, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 2QG
Tel: 01775 722333
enquiries@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk
www.spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk
Follow us on Twitter: @SPCEDS
Head Teacher: Diane Mulley



LINCOLN ANGLICAN
ACADEMY TRUST

DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

Clay Lake, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 2QG
Tel: 01775 722333
enquiries@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk
www.spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk
Follow us on Twitter: @SPCEDS
Head Teacher: Diane Mulley