



Harnham C. of E. Junior School
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Thursday 25th July 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians

State of the Nation

When I write this State of the Nation letter each year, I look back and wonder how quickly it's gone – even though there have been days which passed slowly – and consider how far we have come, despite life's attempts to get in the way. As was noted in yesterday's Leavers' Service – time is not linear, and is given to us to make our best use of.

Yesterday's Leavers' Service was a reminder of the journey that this group of Year 6 children have undertaken during their time at Harnham Junior School; there were moments of sombre reflection, and moments of humorous recollection – all surrounded by a feeling of mutual care, recognising that the children arrive as infants, and leave us fully prepared for secondary school. One of the Year 6s, who moved to Harnham from another School mid-way through Key Stage 2, told us that his abiding memory is of the feeling of care, kindness and welcome he felt as he arrived at the Junior School.

The children read poems, and sang songs, whose words had common themes of striving for the best that we can be – whatever it is that we choose to do – and of building the skills that help us to develop, in order to overcome difficulties and uncertainties that we cannot foresee.

The confidence that has resulted from the unforeseen/unplanned-for challenges they have faced during their time at school, is enormous. It is this confidence acts as the basis of greater confidence because of the way in which they face the next challenges, understanding that success cannot always be guaranteed.

As you know from the accompanying Newsletter, there are some staffing changes for next year; we are saying goodbye to some colleagues who are leaving at the same time, but for different reasons, we wish them all well – they too will continue to be part of the Harnham Junior School community in the memories that they have helped create.

We would very much like to thank all of those who have helped the children in so many ways during this academic year - whether that be coming in to School to listen to readers; accompanying children on the many trips, raising much-needed funds with the H.S.A. or by helping children to prepare for specific events – or by helping with homework and leaning tables/spellings at home. On behalf of everyone here, thank you – it is that mutual support which makes the School a community – and benefits the children enormously.

We all hope you have a great summer break and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 3rd September. We have a School Development Day at the beginning of term on which we are continuing to look at curriculum development. Excitingly, Year 5 will go straight to their residential trip to New Barn on Tuesday 3rd September – with a memorable opportunity to get to know their new classmates, and catch up with their present ones – creating new memories for the future.

So that you can plan ahead, along with the Infant School, the start of the academic year

Monday 2nd September 2019 – School Closure Day

Tuesday 3rd September 2019 - First Day for Children

Tuesday 3rd September 2019 – Year 5 - First Day of New Barn Residential

Finally, I would like to thank you for trusting us with your children, and for working with us for your children. If you are moving on, we all wish you the very best for your future; please don't forget us, but come back to visit, and let us know how you are getting on.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L Coles', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr L Coles – Headteacher