



27<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you as another year has flown by and the summer holidays arrive. It has been another very busy year; one in which your children have worked incredibly hard to be ready for the next stage of their education and in which our school was recognised by Ofsted for continuing to be a good school with outstanding personal development of pupils and outstanding behaviour and attitudes. This was a very proud achievement for us all considering the challenges faced by schools in recent years as a result of the pandemic. As a reminder, they noted:

- ✓ Leaders carefully consider how best to prepare 'today's children for tomorrow's world'.
- ✓ Pupils at Dowson Primary Academy School are exceptionally well cared for.
- ✓ Leaders and staff nurture and celebrate pupils' aspirations.
- ✓ Pupils are extremely well prepared to make a positive contribution to their current and future communities.
- ✓ The curriculum supports pupils to develop a rich body of knowledge in readiness for future learning.
- ✓ Leaders have high expectations of pupils' achievement, including pupils with special educational needs.
- ✓ Leaders are determined that all pupils learn to read well.
- ✓ Leaders know the needs of pupils and their families exceptionally well.

The last statement should be celebrated and shared by the school team and you alike because without everyone's commitment to working together in the best interests of our pupils, this wouldn't happen so thank you for your part in making our school a place our pupils can thrive and be the best they can be!

## **Uniform**

Thank you to everyone who has donated uniform to our pre-loved uniform shop this year. As we finish for the summer, please remember that all donations of uniform items in good condition are very welcome and can be dropped in to school over the holidays. Dowson's Den is open all through the summer so please drop them in and they will be sorted and made available to sell. If you want to use our pre-loved shop for huge discounts in uniform, please contact us via the Dowson Family Facebook page over summer with a message for Mrs Houghton, stating items needed. Mrs Houghton is always looking for willing volunteers to help sort the donated items too so if anyone can spare any time, we would love to hear from you!

## **Leavers**

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to two valued members of Team Dowson at the end of this term.





Mrs Hodgkinson is retiring after more than a decade here at Dowson in her role as a playworker In our Dowson's Den team and a Teaching Assistant in our Foundation Stage Unit. We will miss her greatly and thank her for all of her years' service. We wish you a happy and restful retirement doing many things you love Mrs Hodgkinson but know you'll still join us occasionally when we call upon your help, for which we are very grateful.

Mrs Artley returned to Dowson two years ago in a tutoring role after teaching here many years ago. This year she has been Year 6 Pine's class teacher after we convinced her to stay a little longer! As her son begins his own school journey in September, Mrs Artley leaves us to work closer to her home; will miss her greatly and wish her every success in her future endeavours.

I know that will all join me in the thanks and well wishes to these staff.

In September, although not leaving this summer, Miss Danaher will be Mrs Hancock as she gets married next week! We wish you a happily ever after with Mr Hancock and hope you have the most wonderful day – congratulations!

Finally, to our pupils... Our Year 6 children have finished the year in style; they worked hard for good results, had a great activity week full of fun, put on a wonderful show for school and their parents, showing off their talents and said their final goodbyes in a leavers' assembly before the start the next chapter of their journey in education. We are so proud of each and every one of them and know that they are more than ready to go and show the world what they are made of.

Thank you to you, our pupils' parents and carers, for supporting school throughout the year and entrusting us with your children for another year. They are a credit to you and we are lucky to teach and care for them every day.

As always, I want to finish the year by saying thank you to Team Dowson. Your dedication and commitment to our pupils, whatever your role, is second to none. I feel both proud and privileged to lead such a wonderful team.

Pupils return to school on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September**.

Have a restful, safe and enjoyable summer together everyone.

With the warmest of wishes and thanks,

Mrs Kathryn Thornburn - Principal