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9<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents,

So, this letter almost brings the end of the term and year to a close. It hasn't been an easy year, but working with your amazing children has made every day enjoyable and worthwhile.

This week would have been the residential trip for Year 6. Instead, they have had a great range of activities to enjoy, including visiting Bradfield Woods, High Lodge and Alton Waters next week. Yesterday the children that are moving on to Thurston Upper started a two day transition visit, and we wish both them and our other Year 6 children attending different schools, all the best of luck with these next steps.

As school life continues, we have also had our new starters visit Willow Class. An exciting time, but with some apprehension as I'm sure you can remember. We have 18 pupils starting with us, which is a good amount. Our year groups in KS1 are now full, and we are for the first time holding a waiting list for families wanting a place at the school.

As some of you may already know, Mrs Sinclair will be leaving us at the end of term, as her fixed term contract comes to an end. We would like to thank her for all of her hard work and dedication to the school during this difficult year, and wish her all the best for the future.

This week we heard that we have won the Participation Cup from the School Sport Partnership this year as we were the school in Suffolk that attended and participated in the most events, clubs, challenges and competitions, even during lockdown. I would like to thank Mrs Jeffery, and Mr Vaughton our PE lead for helping the children gain this award, plus our lovely SSP teacher Mrs Porch for the fantastic, dedicated work she does with the children. I will be awarding the cup at sports day, so keep it a secret for now!

Another bit of fantastic news is that we have gained funding for a new perimeter fence for the school. The amount is amazing - £47,500 has been granted to the school via a Condition Improvement Fund bid. We are going to have a top-notch fence which will be great for school safety, and of course keeping the PE equipment in!

I would also like to thank FORS for their support this year. Most recently they have purchased a huge amount of PE equipment, ice-creams for our party week, and most recently leavers gifts for year 6. It will be great to start fund-raising again next year, all being well. I'm sure they would welcome new members for the new year, so if you can dedicate a small amount of time to the team, please let the office know and they will point you in the right direction.

Hopefully I will see a few of you next Monday at sports day. I'm sorry we can't have lots of people there, but we do seem to be one of the only schools having any spectators, so we would like to keep it safely limited as I'm sure you understand. Hopefully it will stay sunny!

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards,

Helen Ballam