



Life & Learning



21 Jul 2017—Our school community newsletter, issued every other week

Congratulations!

The Long Farewell!

And so the journey of 7 years—8 for some—comes to an end for a lovely group of Year 6 children. This morning they shared with the whole school community the highlights of 7 years of learning and for us it was a great story to hear. There were, of course, plenty of tears—good emotions to live through, as they will embed the memories fully for this group of Year 6 children. I really wanted to use this forum to thank the team of Year 6 teachers and teaching assistants—Mrs Clark, Miss Underwood, Mrs Sandhu, Mrs Coates-Mullins, Mrs Wright and Mrs Chant—for the exquisite care they have taken with your children. I have been delighted to witness their love, commitment, resilience and joy that they have demonstrated in the struggle to help Barley and Wheat children achieve all that they have. And we were really gratified by so many lovely comments, presents, cards, words and tears that expressed *your* gratitude. Many of you have really understood what we are trying to do here and that our heart for your children is that they would learn to live and walk in *love*. If the children have learned that above all, they will be richly equipped for the learning that they encounter in the future. To Ben, awarded the Potter Prize this year, and to Alice, who came very close, I offer my congratulations for all you did to earn it!

It was also time today to say some sad farewells to some vital members of staff, and before I celebrate their achievements, I ought to give thanks for Mrs Sandhu, who as our unofficial social secretary, has done all the buying and preparation of the gifts that we have made to the wonderful people who are leaving us.

Mrs Lavinia Chant has decided to finish at Christ the Sower as a TA. She and her family are moving to Norfolk soon and we wish them all the best of health and contentment for their shared future.

Miss Sonia Berglund, who has decided to enter teaching at the University of Cambridge, has been a fantastic TA in year 2 over the last few years and has really brought French alive to Year 3 this year. We are really grateful for all Sonia has contributed and hope to see her back some time in the future in a new guise!!

Miss Vicky Devonport has also decided to enter teaching and will be training locally, so we may see her around a bit. Over the last 18 months especially, Vicky has been a highly competent and hard-working Foundation TA, whilst also completing a degree, and has thoroughly deserved this chance to train as a teacher.

Mrs Rose Szentpeteri, our much loved Thistle-class teacher, is leaving after nearly 3 years as a full time teacher, and a regular supply before that. Hopefully we will see her around again, but in the meantime, her professionalism, commitment to high standards and her richly cultured approach to everything she does has been a great support to us as leaders and an encouragement to those teachers and TAs she works with.

Finally, we have had today to say goodbye to **Mrs Christine Richards**, our much-admired and deeply-loved Deputy Headteacher for the last 8 years. In that time, Christine has been the thread that has kept the leadership going in school, as heads (4 of us) and assistant heads (2 of them) have changed around her. When I came, she was brilliant at looking after me and helping me make the adjustment from a small school in Shropshire where just two languages were spoken, to a large multi-ethnic school with 39 languages! We have made a really good team and between us expanded and grown the leadership team into a confident, multi-skilled unit that really can drive forward all the improvements we have made over the last 7 years. What Christine has brought to that has been the ability to reach all the members of the school staffing and ensure that their voice is heard in the leadership team meetings and in forward planning. As a teacher she has few equals here and as a day-to-day manager and “keeper of things on an even keel” she has been outstanding. Trying to replace her will be impossible and I will cherish everything she has brought to this school as teacher, leader and musician. She will take up her new post as headteacher of Steeple Claydon Primary School in September and will undoubtedly lead that school to greater strengths. All of us wish her everything of the very best for a great future.

Praying for school: We know many of you do still commit us regularly in prayer and we are really grateful. Please join us as we:

- ◆ Give thanks for those wonderful teachers and support staff named above, praying that they will find a future and a hope in all that they do and put their hand to.
- ◆ Pray for peace, comfort, contentment & courage for all those Y6 children as they begin to process all that they have experienced over the last term and all that they will be facing in the future.
- ◆ Pray for rest and deep refreshment for each member of the school so we may better serve one another in September.

Mrs Richards would like to say: “Thank you so much for all your gifts and good wishes today. I was really touched by the thoughtfulness and kindness behind everything that has been said to me and by the words written in so many cards. Working at Christ the Sower has been a real pleasure and joy – children, staff and parents form the most amazing community: something truly special and unique. I wish you all the best for the future!”

Dates for the first week back

1 Sep	INSET Day: teacher training and safeguarding course*
4 Sep	Term starts for children—8.40 a.m. Opening Collective Worship

These children have appeared in the Golden Book this week...

Maya & Rahma (Daisy)
Adam & Vidip (Poppy)
Joel & Hayden (Sunflower)
Khadija & Jack (Thistle)
David & Lucija (Conker)
Emily & Isaac (Acorn)
Theo & Lyla (Pumpkin)
Ben & Divina (Clover)
Alexander & Alex (Mustard)
Ayushi & Lucia (Teasel)
Paula & Otega (Rosehip)
Lillie-Mae & Day-spring (Sycamore)
Joel & Christabel (Catkin)
Shayne & Dylan (Wheat)
Evie & Ronnie (Barley)

Governors Awards SUMMER 2017

The following children received this term's Governors' Awards

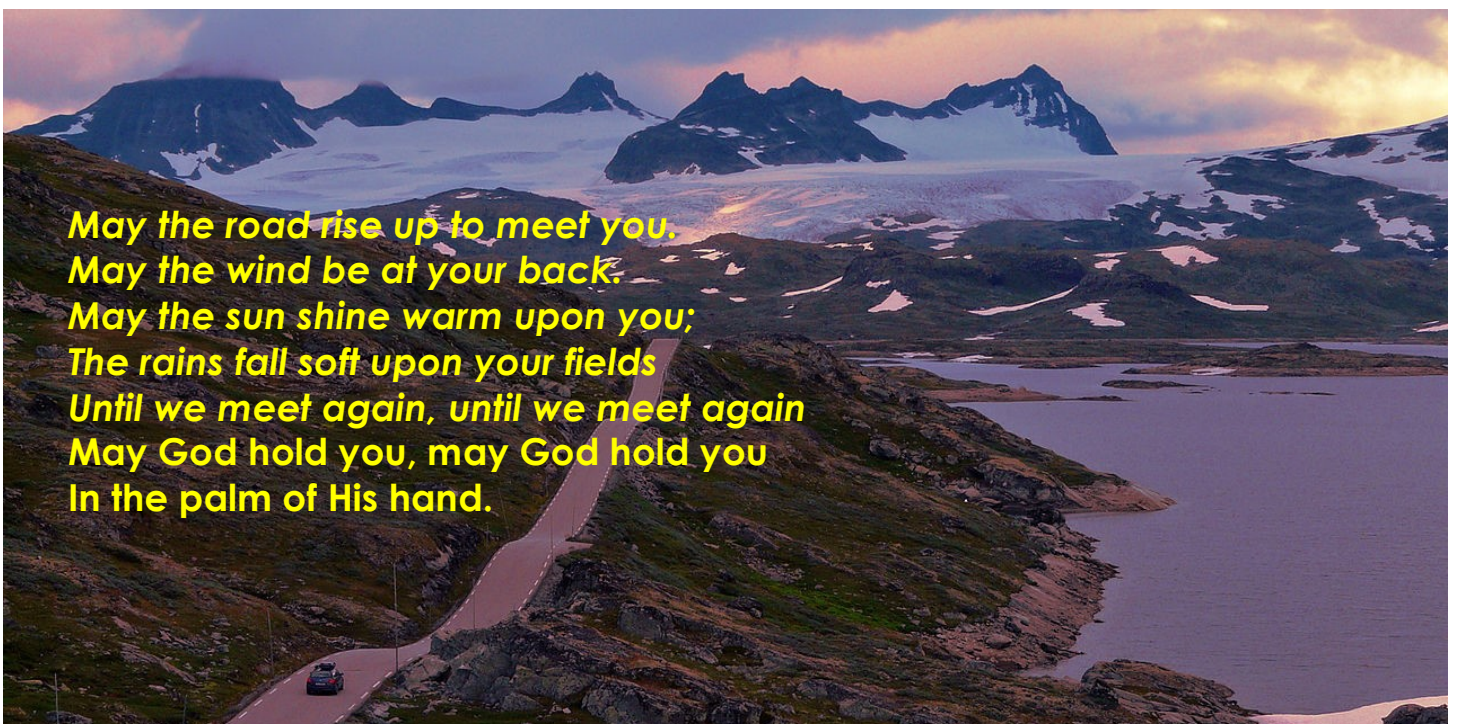
Talisiana (Poppy)
Luke (Sunflower)
Connor (Conker)
Lily-Rose (Thistle)
Emily (Acorn)
Harry (Pumpkin)
Zuzanna (Mustard)
Angelika (Clover)
Luka (Rosehip)
Macie (Teasel)
Keira (Sycamore)
Katy-May (Catkin)
Andrea (Wheat)
Ewan (Barley)
Stephanie (Sports)



FRIENDS TOGETHER'S SUMMER FAYRE was marred by rain but we still raised over £1000. Here are some pictures...



Clover class took part in a Mad Hatter's Tea Party yesterday, part of their fun end-of-term study of Alice in Wonderland. Thanks to Tom's grandad for the beanbag game and to all the teachers for just providing a lot of food and fun. The Queen of Hearts could not have made better Jam Tarts!!!



May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon you;
The rains fall soft upon your fields
Until we meet again, until we meet again
May God hold you, may God hold you
In the palm of His hand.