Crowmoor Primary School & Nursery

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**Headteacher: Mr A J Parkhurst JP**

**Deputy Headteacher: Mrs J Parkhurst**

**School Business Manager: Miss H Cave**

19th July 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

As another Academic Year comes to an end it is a time to reflect on what our fantastic pupils and your fantastic children have achieved.

This term celebrated the dramatic and singing talents evident across the School with the Year 5&6 amazing production of ‘Alice the Musical’.  We are so proud of what they achieved and the productions of the Nativity play by the Early Years Provision, ‘Santa’s Setbacks’ by KS1 and Year 3&4’s ‘A Glint of Gold’ earlier in the year.  We continued to focus on creative art and celebrated the skills of pupils with our annual ‘Art Week’.

In sport, we gained our third national ‘Gold Sport Award’ celebrating the breadth of sporting opportunity offered to all pupils.  Mrs Brunyard has just secured the highly-prized National Platinum Sport Award for Crowmoor because of this.  This term saw EYFS pupils having professional coaching from Shrewsbury Town, who provide the whole school with coaching on a weekly basis throughout the year.  Recently KS2 entered the Area Athletics Competition at Shrewsbury College.  Key Stage 2 competed against other schools at the School Games Festival, amongst many other fixtures.

Our continued community involvement saw the Choir perform at Theatre Severn’s 10th Anniversary performance of ‘Romany Wood’.  We participated in numerous music festivals and had live performances of music and dance at School - the Bollywood dancing was enjoyed by children and adults/parents alike.  We appreciate the ongoing guidance and support of the Baptist Church and our increasing links with the Abbey.

We have enriched the learning experiences of the children; providing various after-school clubs and sourcing visitors into school such as “The Exotic Creatures Man”.  We work in close partnership with Shropshire Music Service to provide music tuition as requested by Parents/Carers and the School continue to subsidise the cost of tuition for all pupils.  All of Key Stage 2 were given access to swimming tuition.  Our residential visits for KS2 pupils to Kingswood and Arthog saw personal goals met and exceeded.  We became the very proud first and only Shropshire School so far to be awarded the prestigious UNICEF RRSA Gold Award.  We continued to work with local schools to provide services and support to pupils, such as extra sport through the Belvidere Secondary School Sports Partnership.

All our academic staff have engaged in training throughout the year.  We continue to receive significant input from the Regional Maths Hub based at the Priory School.  As part of our commitment to special needs and inclusion, our staff have received training on attachment disorder, autism and behaviour management.

Thank you to the Friends of Crowmoor for their continued support; they enable us to keep the cost of visits as low as possible with their funding of transport.  We took EYFS and KS1 to Birmingham’s Sea Life Centre and the whole school visited Acton Scott in the Autumn Term.  They also supplied a new sports strip for the School Team as well as organising the termly Discos for pupils and lots of other events.  The Year 6 hoodies and final treat meal was also funded by the Friends – thank you.

As a school we are proud to have retained our judgement of ‘Good’ from OFSTED and are always seeking to enable all pupils, regardless of their ability, to improve their progress.  This year’s results for Year 6 have been the best ever, the children in Year 6 have been an exceptional group and we will miss them.  Year 1 results were above the National Standard.  Reception results saw the average points score per pupil rise and beat National Standards by 1%.  The Year 2 results saw the numbers getting expected increase in reading, writing, maths and science.  Reading results across the school have improved thanks to the use of the Accelerated Reader Programme.

The best homework for the holidays and term-time is a ten-minute reading session.

You may be aware of how the lack of funding for education nationally is impacting on schools, Shropshire has always been poorly-funded and we have been hard hit having to save nearly £180,000 from the budget this year.  This has seen a very painful reduction in our staff and us saying goodbye to a number of our friends/colleagues to balance the budget.  The School Nurseries were being increasingly subsidised by the main school budget and as a result we had to outsource the provision to a private provider.  We have also moved our school meal provision back to Shropshire Council.  It is vital that all parents who might be eligible for Free School Meals, even for if only for one day, make a claim.  If accepted your child generates six years of pupil premium funding for the school; this enables our School to employ more teachers and teaching assistants.  The Local Authority used us as the example of how the current funding system is ‘hurting’ Shropshire’s schools and we were allocated a Department for Education Advisor to assist in gaining savings.  He found that we had an exemplary level of efficiency at 87.5% and he found it miraculous that we could run a school of our size on our level of funding!

We are always justifiably proud of our inclusivity as a school and of how well our children behave both in school and on visits.   We are frequently complimented by outside agencies about our good behaviour.

We strive to recognise that our pupils are foremost children, they are learning both academically and socially all the time and part of that process will see them making the odd mistakes and on occasions they may make wrong decisions.  They need our joint support to understand, develop resilience and be confident to move forward positively.

In concluding the school, its staff and Governors hope that you and your children enjoy the Summer break and we look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 3rd September 2019.

Yours sincerely

Mr A J Parkhurst

Hedteacher