



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

During the past three weeks, we have celebrated the Christmas story throughout the school in music, song, dance and words as many of you and hundreds of others have seen and enjoyed. Well done to all the children and staff who have prepared and practised for the excellent performances that have taken place, or are yet to, to spread the Christmas message of love, joy and happiness.

Next week, I will be leaving Goosewell after over fourteen years of leading the school. It has been an honour to have been part of a wonderful community central to which are the children who are a credit to both the school and to their families - I will miss every one of them.

The Christmas themes of joy, excitement and hope have been with me during all my days at Goosewell. Serving alongside dedicated, skilled and kind staff over many years and having the greatest of joys in seeing children grow and change has been a privilege no other role in the world could allow.

The school is rightly recognised by those within and beyond the world of education as an outstanding example of inclusivity not only in the character and needs of every one of its pupils, but also in the value our school commits to giving children a broad and interesting education. How wonderful it has been to lead a school where every child is not just seen as assessment data on legs, but as an individual human being who we can help identify, nurture and celebrate their skill, talent and enjoyment as a great runner, musician, mathematician, author, coder, dancer, historian, team sports player, risk taker, scientist, helper, designer, artist and so on. Having the conviction that every child can discover, or start to discover, a spark that makes them light up with delight is a terrific force for good.



Reflecting back over more than thirty three years in teaching and twenty two years in headship, the words of Einstein I feel sum up the way the world of primary education has become:

'Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts'

Thank you for the support you have given to the school as parents who entrust the most important gift in your life with us each day, for giving time as reading volunteers, PTA members, governors, classroom volunteers, helpers at school events and walking bus leaders; the list goes on but your help has been truly appreciated.

Thank you for your messages, gifts and kind words shared with me in recent days. As the start of my new adventures comes closer and the excitement grows of spending more time with my family, I wish you, the staff and all the children the very best wishes for Christmas and for whatever all your futures bring.

John M. Stephens, Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

As you know, Mr Stephens will sadly be leaving Goosewell Academy at Christmas. He has done so much to enhance and promote our school during his 14 years here: introducing new ways of teaching and learning; bringing in experiences to stimulate the creative minds of the children; providing children past and present with the tools to assist them on their educational and life journeys.

Mr Stephens has always made every effort to ensure that he knows every child by their name. He has spent many hours writing individual comments on every report. This is the ethos he has instilled because he firmly believes that every child at Goosewell matters. He has worked hard to teach children of all ages the school values, humility, morals and most importantly to care for others and treat everyone with respect.

Although his day to day touch will be sorely missed, Mr Stephens leaves behind the legacy of a firm foundation for the future of the school in the wealth of experience and expertise of the staff. On behalf of all members of the Governing Body I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his incredible hard work and dedication over the years. We wish him every success in his future and a fun-filled well deserved holiday with his family.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Maria Manning

On behalf of the Governing Body



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School Assessment Performance

- ☆ The school assessment results for 2018, published by the Department for Education yesterday, have shown a mixed picture with great success for most year groups tests and a disappointment in one set of results.
- ☆ Our end of Foundation Stage assessments were the best we have achieved and are above the local and national average.
- ☆ Year 1 phonics test results showed the percentage of children achieving the expected standard is in line with the national average and the target set by the school.
- ☆ Key Stage 1 (Year 2) assessments showed that our children achieved our best ever results for this age group and higher than the national average in reading, writing and maths. They also made better than expected progress from the end of Foundation Stage to the end of Year 2.
- ☆ After seven years of continuous improvement in our end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) results, the 2018 results showed a dip in attainment and progress though an increase and improvement in the Greater Depth for more able pupils in individual subjects. This year's end of Key Stage 2 results are predicted to be higher.

I am delighted that the hard work of our children, teachers and teaching assistants across the school, together with your vital support, has resulted in the school achieving significant improvements in our children's learning in recent years.

Site and Security Improvements

The Reach South Schools Estates Team have secured over £250,000 to build a perimeter fence around the school site and to upgrade some of our heating. The first phase of fencing will encompass the school site including playgrounds (£100,000), with hope that it will start in February. This will include electronic access gates linked to CCTV in the office. The second phase will be fencing the perimeter of the school field and car-park (£110,000) which is likely to take place in the summer, also with electronic gate control to the car park. The £45,000 for boiler upgrades is also welcomed. This is great news for Goosewell.

From the beginning of the new year, an electronic entry system will be installed for all staff and visitors in the main entrance lobby. This will make the signing in and checking out of visitors and staff more effective and efficient. Please bear with us during its early days of operation.

Lost Coats and School Jumpers/Cardigans

- Aiden D 1/2K has lost a named, royal blue coat with hood. Could you please check that your child has the correct coat.
- Olivia L FWH has lost a number of named *Goosewell Academy* cardigans and sweatshirts. Please check that your child has brought home the correct items. Thank you.

PSA News

Don't forget to look at the PSA section of the Goosewell Academy website for information on clubs, support and activities for families throughout the year [PSA News](#).

- ☆ Visit Plymouth's Penguins: A Lego brick trail
- ☆ Time for You group (see below)

Time for YOU!
A supportive group for MOTHERS of Children with Additional Needs

Taster Session for Professionals
who work with children with additional needs + their families

Come and find out about the Time for YOU group - a supportive group for mums of children with additional needs. Could this be useful for the families you work with?

MumadaChange CIC is a community interest company. We support the wellbeing of mothers using coaching, creative tools + real communities of support. www.mumadachange.org

Do you know someone you think could benefit? Would you like to experience this first hand? Would you like to spend 2 hours adding to your wellbeing tool kit?

WHEN: Tuesday 18th Dec 2-4pm
FEE: Free - Booking ASAP is essential email jo@creationcoaching.co.uk or text 07855 529582
WHERE: Devonport Park Activity Centre

RUN BY: Jo Ball - MA Int Arts Psych Life Coach and Licensed Firework Career Coach, mother of 2 and aspiring poet.

SUPPORTED BY: Claire Gale whose son has complex medical needs. Claire loved the group so much she did it then wanted to share it with others.



Good bye and thank you to Mrs Skingley in the school kitchen who is retiring at the end of term. Thank you for all your help with feeding the children of Goosewell.

As you are finishing off (or even starting!) your Christmas shopping online, please remember that you can easily raise funds for the school by a simple click on the Easyfundraising site. You can find the link [here](#)

Dates for your diaries

DECEMBER

Monday 17th

Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Parties

Tuesday 18th

Years 5 and 6 Carol Services at St Mary's and All Saints Church at 2.00pm and 6.00pm

Wednesday 19th

Free mufti

Last day of Term 2. School finishes early at 1.45pm

JANUARY

Friday 4th

Non-pupil day

Monday 7th

Term 3 begins for children

One-to-one reading restarts

Thursday 10th

Foundation Stage Theatre Royal trip to see The Gingerbread Man

Friday 11th

3Y Family Assembly in the Main Hall at 2.30pm-3.00pm

Monday 14th

Clubs start this week

1B Family School Lunch at 12.15pm

High 5 Netball Tournament

Tuesday 15th

1NH Family School Lunch at 12.15pm

High 5 Netball Tournament

Thursday 17th

PTA meeting at 6.30 p.m. at The Plymstock Inn

Friday 18th

FHB Family Assembly in the Main Hall at 2.30pm-3.00pm

As this is the last newsletter before we break for Christmas, we wish you all happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you on Monday 7th January 2019!

USING EVERYONE'S TALENTS