



July 2022

# SCHOOL NEWS

<http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/>

Dear Parents & Carers,

The year seems to have whizzed by, perhaps because every week has been so busy here. The school has been a very happy place. The children are thriving and we have a very strong staff team who work well together, always focusing on what is best for the children, both educationally and pastorally. The children have done a great job of welcoming new children too, whether it is new termly nursery intake or pupils who have joined us higher up the school.

The final half-term has been fabulous, with all sorts of things going on. The whole school took part in Sports Week with special guests coming into school to help everyone get active, including Sports Activators, gymnastics coaches and a martial arts expert. We know that events within this week have inspired some of our children to join clubs out of school, which is great —sometimes you don't know that you are going to enjoy something until you try it!

Trips and visitors have supported curriculum enrichment too, including a visit by the Wonderdome mobile planetarium which filled our school hall and the Acorn and Beech trip to the Cotswold Wildlife park. We have invited families into school to attend the Reception Graduation ceremony, to watch the Oak Class performance and for our whole school Sports Day. The children have planned events too, including the WOMBATS Enterprise fair which raised a wonderful £251 for Team Seas.

We couldn't be prouder of our children. From nursery to year 6, they have such a positive attitude to learning and typically give of their best, even when they find some aspects of learning a challenge. The learning support you give your children at home really with their learning too, whether it is sharing their word bags, supporting with spellings, reading with them or to them, exploring maths or helping with research homework. We know this is not always easy but it does make a difference, so thank you.

We will all be sorry to say good-bye to our wonderful Year 6. They are a small year group of only eleven children, but such varied and vibrant characters. They have all brought us a lot of joy during their time here and, even though they are absolutely ready to move on, we will miss them.

On behalf of all the staff here, I want to thank you all for your support during the academic year. Have a wonderful summer holiday.

With warmest wishes,

Jane O'Sullivan, Headteacher



Isobel and Ben, Oak Class, had a wonderful time taking part in the Longborough Festival Opera's production of Bizet's 'Carmen'. The children are part of the Youth Chorus and this gave them a real taste of what it is like to take part in a nationally recognised musical event. They showed commitment in attending rehearsals and performances and were determined to get the most out of this wonderful opportunity. Jessica May, one of the opera organisers, described the twins as "wonderful and much valued." We couldn't agree more.

**Well done Ben and Isobel! We are very proud of you.**

## SIBFORD GOWER STAR SINGERS



**Children return  
to school on 5th  
September.**

**Best Class Attendance  
this half term: 96%**  
**Willow Class**





# ACORN CLASS NEWS

This term we have been 'looking beyond'; looking beyond into the wider world right the way up into outer space! We have also been 'looking beyond' Acorn Class as our Reception children prepare to start the next stage of their learning journey as they enter Year 1 and Beech Class. Read on to find out more!

## Super Sports

We have had a very active term in Acorn Class. During Sports Week we enjoyed lots of different activities to keep us fit and healthy. We played different games outside with the Youth Activators and had a great time learning gymnastics skills with Jumping Jacks; we joined in with the action songs, practised our balancing on the mini-beam and learned how to do a forward roll. We also learned different gymnastics shapes which we enjoyed spotting back in the classroom when we watched some British gymnasts at work on the big screen. Most importantly, we learned that gymnastics requires a lot of strength and is for both girls and boys!



## Marvellous Maths!

This term the children have been furthering their maths skills, looking at various concepts such as odd and even numbers - using our Numicon resources to help us recognise them (look out for those 'odd tops'!). We have also been exploring shape with some new resources in our maths area and building some wonderful structures with our water blocks.



## Wonderful Wildlife

One of the highlights of this term was our joint trip with Beech Class to visit the Cotswold Wildlife Park. We had a wonderful day; seeing all sorts of animals we have read about in books and seen on television but never in real life was really amazing! And of course we had an obligatory ice cream stop too! We all loved the train ride round the park and Acorn had a special visit to 'Madagascar' where we saw some real life 'King Juliens'! Back in the classroom, the children were inspired by the park and brought the animals into their play, categorising them by characteristics such as size, pattern or type of animal.



### Sensational Space!

We have also enjoyed looking beyond planet Earth into Space! The children have enjoyed reading information books and storybooks about the solar system and the planets and watched a special episode of CBeebies 'Stargazing' to find out more about what's beyond our planet. We also went out into our outdoor area and made our own Solar System (including the Asteroid Belt) using different objects to represent the different elements. Yes - the Little Tikes car IS the giant Sun!



### Glorious Graduation!

Finally this year we gathered on the Big Field with Beech Class and our grown ups from home as our audience to 'graduate' from Acorn Class and the Early Years Foundation Stage. The children have been wonderful this year and Miss Blake, Mrs Evans and Mrs Perkins have enjoyed teaching all of you. This special celebration reminds us how far you've come on your journey since joining Acorn Class and looks forward to your continuing your learning journey in Beech next year. The children had a great time celebrating their learning and wearing their special mortar boards - all rounded off of course with a super ice cream or ice lolly!

CONGRATULATIONS RECEPTION CLASS OF 2022!



From all of us in Acorn Class we'd like to wish you a happy, healthy and fun filled Summer!  
We're looking forward to hearing about all your adventures in September!





**BEECH CLASS** In history, we explored about how the Fire Brigade started. We role played what life was like in the aftermath of the Great Fire of London. The children were completely engrossed in this. After this, we made our own versions of 'Firemarks' inspired by London, out of clay .



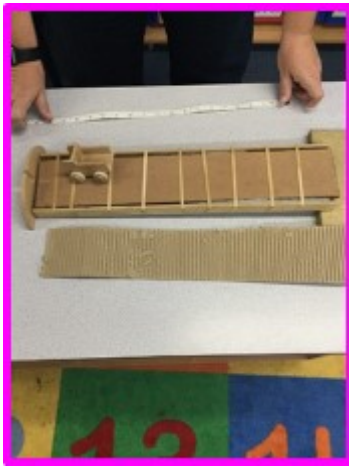
We had a super special visit from Mrs. Roseblade and baby Felicity!

Mrs. Roseblade taught us about the responsibilities of taking care of a little baby. We had lots of questions!





In science, we have been exploring materials in more detail. First, we investigated what materials are rigid and what materials are flexible. This involved lots of group collaboration. We later compared our results as a whole class. Then we investigated the friction of a range of materials. It was very hands on and super fun.



We experienced wonderful music lessons, inspired by the ocean and led by Mrs. Perkins.

We like to have fun with vocabulary – this involves working in groups or pairs and playing games. This was a matching game. The aim was to match the correct words with the contractions such as, 'it will' to 'it'll'.



We kicked off our trip to The Cotswold Wildlife Park in the best way possible... with ice-creams for brunch! Then we visited the hungry penguins and watched as they had their lunch. They didn't have ice-creams! Afterwards, we walked around the park stopping to visit a range of animals. We even ate our lunch with a view of the rhinos!



The baby rhino was lovely, but not as lovely as Mrs Roseblade's baby!



## Willow's Summer Newsletter

What a wonderful year it has been! It has been full of learning, excitement, achievements and fun. The children have blossomed and grown in confidence, both academically and emotionally. They have achieved many personal targets and I am extremely proud of them all.



### Willow's Wonderful Enterprise Project

As a class we decided to make seed paper. This supports our wildlife on land, we have used no plastic and we recycled paper from school shredding and other paper donations.

We collected the shredded paper and cut blue paper (Mrs Williams had some at home and donated) into thin strips. Placing this in 2 large tubs, we added enough water to cover and left over night. This softened the paper, breaking down the fibres ready for the next process.

Then, in batches, we blitzed the paper using hand blenders and a mini food processor into a mulch. This was placed in a tea towel, again in batches, to drain and squeeze out excess water. We placed the pulp into a new bowl, ready to add the seeds. We added a mixture of Cornflower and Classic Meadow wild flower seeds and mixed this thoroughly into our pulped paper.

Next, we spread our mulch out onto trays and pressed down to flatten and ensure the mixture had compressed together. Over the next couple of days, we turned the paper to help the drying process. Finally, we cut the pieces into squares ready for you wonderful families to buy. The children thoroughly enjoyed this whole project and enjoyed making the seed papers. I think you will agree, they were lovely!



### Our Art Work for the Queen



*"I like making seed paper because, not only does it raise money for 'Team Seas', but it was all made from paper and recycled items. It makes the environment friendly"- Molly E*

*"I like how it makes flowers for the insects and also helps our seas too!!- Martha*

***"Save our seas, help the bees, plant these seeds"***



## Our Viking Pinch Pots

We have had some really interesting lessons in Willow Class, finding out all about the Vikings and the way they lived. We practised our sketching skills by making observation drawings of Viking pots.



Then we had fun applying our knowledge to design our own pots and then make them using real clay—just like the Vikings!



**Some pics of Ben & Isobel on the opera stage. Stars in the making!**





## Oak Class News



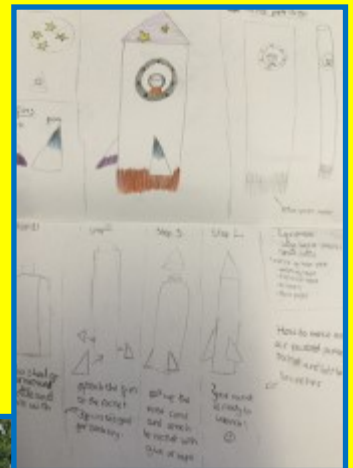
### Stomp Rockets

Our D&T brief this term was to make a stomp rocket. The children first had to learn all about what pneumatics were and how they work. They also had to know how the pressurised air makes the rocket move and discussed when adding the fins, how symmetry and position can affect the drag. As always, the children then planned and designed their own rocket ready to build – they had such fun!



### Enterprise day

In Oak class, the children thoroughly enjoyed preparing for Enterprise day and making their items to sell in aid of the 'Team Seas' project, the WOMBAT'S chosen charity for the year. Not only did this involve the planning and making of our cards but also required the children to apply their maths skills to work out the profit margins of their venture. The finished products looked stunning and they were all snapped up!



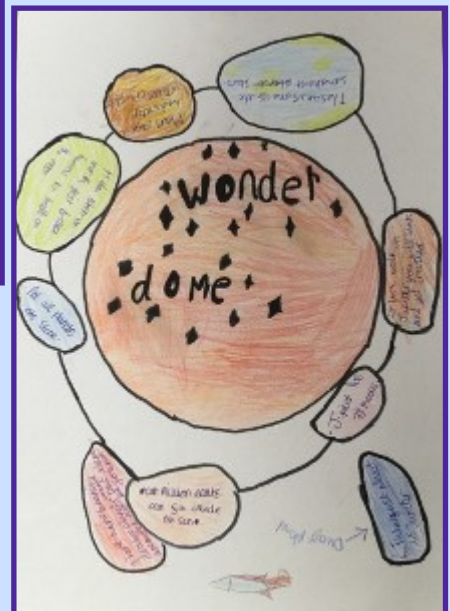
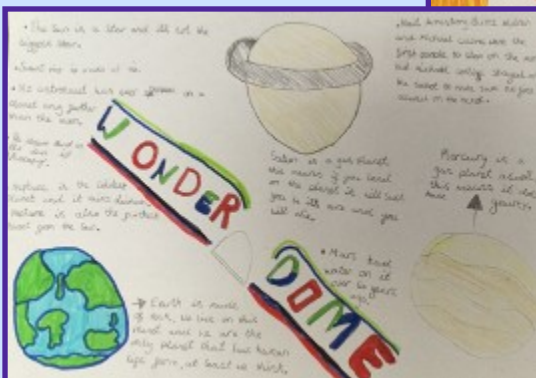


# The Wonderdome

The Wonderdome is an inflatable mobile planetarium that is so BIG a whole class can fit inside. It nearly filled our school hall! All the children, from Nursery to Year 6, had a chance to go inside for a knowledge-filled workshop appropriate to their age group. Everyone learned a lot and had a really interesting time.

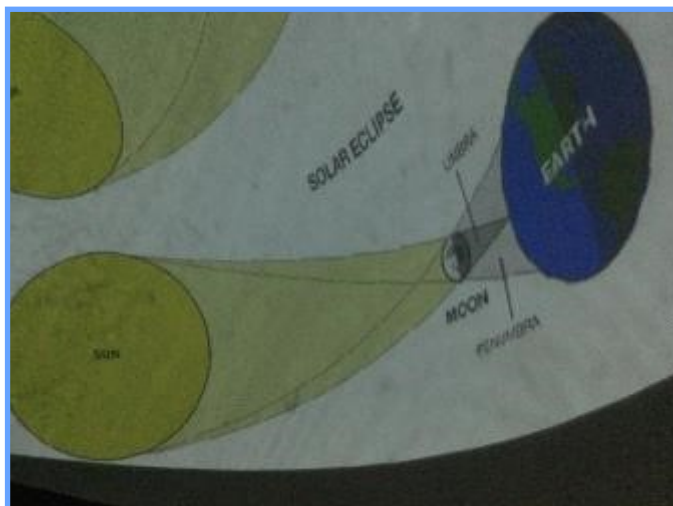
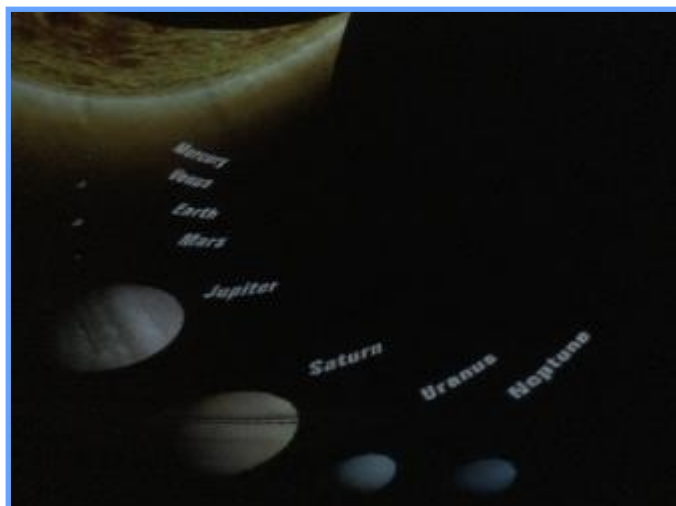


The children in Oak Class have been exploring the topic of Earth & Space and their workshop inspired them to design their own fact-filled posters, illustrating some of the things they have learned.





All of the children paid a visit to the Wonderdome. Even the smallest children did some learning in class linked to their Wonderdome workshop as part of their EYFS class learning focus on 'Looking Beyond' which includes a section on Space.



Although it was very dark inside the mobile planetarium, we did manage to get a few pictures to share with you.



## After School Clubs

It has been great to get more of our After School Clubs up and running again. From football and netball to board games and craft club, our staff volunteers give their time & work hard to make these happen.



### Craft Club News

This term the Wednesday craft club have been busily trying out lots of new crafts from sequin art to shrinkies and pom poms! The children worked so hard on their pom poms and their final efforts can be seen hanging from a tree on our big field.

Although the pom poms took a number of weeks to complete, the children showed great determination and perseverance (particularly when faced with pesky tangles in their yarn) to get them finished! Mrs Perkins and Mrs Evans are so proud of all their crafters.

Mrs Perkins is a proponent of yarn-bombing and her craft club children have introduced some strange new fruit to our woodlands! Strange...and rather beautiful!





As the oldest & youngest in Blue House, Theo and Molly received the Cup.



Monty was awarded the Sue Rowley Cup for Sportsmanship. Very well deserved.

## Sports Day 2022

This was such a lovely afternoon! The sun shone but the breeze wafted cooling clouds over for much of the afternoon. It was wonderful to welcome parents, grandparents, siblings and friends to join us for one of our favourite annual events. The children were competitive but very sporting and everyone had fun. Huge thanks to our Sports Leaders, to all the staff, especially, Miss Grantham for organising the event, and to our PTA for the much needed refreshments!

Well done to the children of BLUE HOUSE, this year's winners of the Heather Cup.





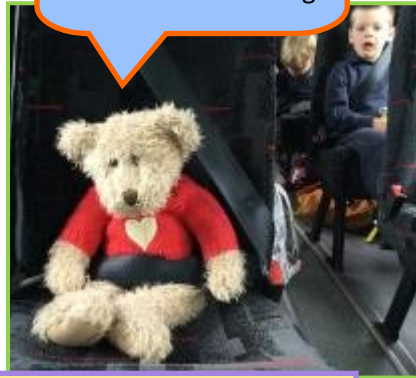
# Putney Bridges' Great Day Out

Many of you will know Putney Bridges as the school bear who lives in Mrs O'Sullivan's office. Putney loves an adventure and, when Acorn & Beech Classes went to the Cotswold Wild Life Park, he climbed onto the coach with them. Putney had a brilliant day and saw all sorts of interesting creatures though, sadly, no other bears! The children looked after him very kindly and made sure he didn't miss anything.

Stuart the bus driver was very welcoming.



Make sure you fasten your seat belt before the bus starts moving!



First stop, the penguins at feeding time.



The baby rhino was enormous too!

The giant tortoise was enormous!



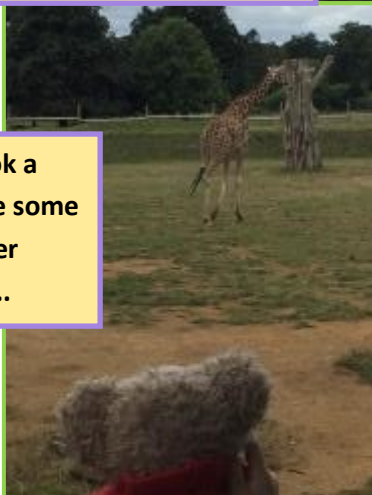
There was a lot to see from the train.



The baby monkey was very small.



Putney took a walk to see some of the larger mammals...



What a lovely day!



... and then had a little rest before the coach trip back to school.



# The WOMBAT Page

As you are aware, our children are very environmentally aware. Unsurprisingly then, our Wombat School Council wanted to make their main focus for action this year, a fundraising event for their chosen charity, 'Team Seas', an organisation which removes plastics from the ocean. The Council launched this by developing and presenting a whole school assembly to introduce the charity and to involve all of the children in deciding upon a fundraising event. They designed ideas boxes where children across the school could post their ideas and then discussed these at School Council meetings.

Their final choice of fundraiser was an Enterprise Fair which we held on the school playground on July 5th. The children's task was to design, make and sell products which would make a profit. They were given a loan by 'The Bank of School' to buy resources which they then had to pay back (interest free!) with all remaining profits going to the charity. This supported some interesting work in maths including consideration of the impact of wages and working hours on profit if the workforce had to be paid. As part of their marketing, the children designed posters to advertise the event. The parental turn-out for the fair was brilliant. Thank you all so much! The gross takings were £376.00, with a net profit of £251.00 which has been sent off to Team Seas. **Well done, you WOMBATS!**



I bet no one can guess what flavour ice-cream I had!





# Oak Class, Year 6 Day of Fun



The lovely Mrs Humphrey and Mrs Downes organised a very special afternoon for our Year 6 children. They went up to Sibford School where they had a fun swim and then a session on the amazing climbing wall.



They were bold, they were beautiful...



... they were totally exhausted!

Then, back to school for a movie and a pizza. And then ...the water fight!



## Oak Class Summer Performance

The summer was swelteringly hot, but the show must go on...and the turnip must come up!

The Oak Class performance of Mr Cameron's version of 'The Great Big, Enormous Turnip' was fun to perform and very funny.

Well done to all the actors for their hard work and to Mr Cameron for his.





# Summer Reading Challenge 2022



Karen Seymour , from the County Library Service , visited school for a special whole school assembly to introduce the Summer Reading Challenge 2022.

The theme for this year's Challenge is Gadgeteers. It's all about science and innovation.

The 'Gadgeteers' are a group of friends who enjoy creating new inventions and working together to solve problems.

Developed in partnership with the Science Museum Group, the challenge will inspire children to use their curiosity and creativity to discover the science behind the everyday.

To find out more about the Summer Reading Challenge and some of the exciting free events and workshops connected with it, please click on the link below.

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/summer-reading-challenge](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/summer-reading-challenge)

## Why read 20mins at home?

| Student A   | Student B   | Student C  |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 20 minutes of reading a day</li><li>• 3600 minutes per school year</li><li>• 1800000 words per year</li><li>• scores in the top 10% in standardized tests</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5 minutes of reading a day</li><li>• 900 minutes per school year</li><li>• 282500 words per year</li><li>• scores average 50% in standardized tests</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 minute of reading a day</li><li>• 180 minutes per school year</li><li>• 8000 words per year</li><li>• scores in the bottom 10% in standardized tests</li></ul> |
|   |   |  |

If a child starts reading 20 minutes per night in kindergarten, by the end of year 8, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.



Regular reading at home makes a huge difference to how well children learn during their time at school and afterwards. It has a huge impact on their word power and their wider knowledge.

If you don't have a lot of books at home or are curious to look at all sorts of other books, the library is a wonderful resource for children and adults . You can borrow up to 20 books or audio books at a time, and it is all absolutely FREE! Just pop into your nearest library to register.



# The Warriner Multi Academy Trust

## Summary of the Year's Highlights

Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian,

As another very strange year draws to a close, there are a number of highlights that I want to share with you.

**COVID19:** Although there has been no formal closure of schools during this academic year, it has been far from normal. COVID has caused significant numbers of days of illness for children and staff. Everyone, including yourselves, have worked really hard to support our children to catch up any missed learning and I am grateful to you all for your ongoing support.

**National Testing:** As you all know, this year saw the return of Year 1 phonics, Key Stage 1 and 2 testing and GCSE and A Level exams. Sadly, the Department for Education has given little account to the impact of COVID on days out of school for children and their teachers. I am, therefore, even more delighted with the results achieved by all of our primary school children and know that the same will be the case for our secondary children when they get their results in the summer.

### **Curriculum Development:**

**Primary:** This year we launched the new trust primary curriculum across all of our schools. This has been developed by a core team of subject specialists from across the trust. The feedback from children has been incredibly positive. I hope that they have been sharing this with you. Throughout the year staff have worked hard to constantly improve the curriculum further and this work will continue. The curriculum has been through two full Ofsted inspections and was highly commended.

**Secondary:** Curriculum development at The Warriner has been ongoing for some time. This year, however, staff have been working with our primary colleagues to further develop a curriculum that builds upon the very strong learning in our trust primary schools.

**Opening of a New School:** In July 2019, I wrote to you about our successful bid to open a 2 from entry primary school within Graven Hill, Bicester. You may have seen the development covered in Grand Designs "The Street" and more recently in "The Streets". Originally the school was due to open in September 2021 but has been delayed due to the site being used for COVID supply storage. I am delighted that we are back on track for the school to open in September 2023.

**Ofsted Update:** Last Autumn we welcomed an Ofsted inspection team at Bishop Loveday Primary School in Bodicote. The school had been deemed Requires Improvement since before joining the trust. We were all delighted that the judgment moved to Good in all areas. This is down to the hard work of staff, children and parents and I am proud of all of them.

**The Warriner 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday:** last year was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of The Warriner School. We could not celebrate then due to COVID restrictions but this year we made up for it with a day of celebrations including a tour of the school with many of our former teachers, dog shows, games, and sporting activities. The 70s themed day culminated with an ABBA tribute band and was a resounding success.

If you would like any further information then go to our website:

[www.warrinermultiacademytrust.co.uk](http://www.warrinermultiacademytrust.co.uk)

It continues to be a real privilege to work with all the children, staff and parents across our schools and I am so proud to be part of this community. Have a lovely summer break.

Yours sincerely



Annabel Kay  
CEO



# Farewell to Year 6

We bid farewell to our wonderful year 6 children who are venturing on to secondary school after the holiday. They are a great bunch of young people and we wish them well!



## A message from Paul Manthorpe, Chair of Governors

*Dear Parents and Carers*

*Another year comes to an end with our oldest pupils moving on to new and greater challenges in the schools of their choice. We, the Governors, wish them all the happiness and success that they deserve. It is also a time to reflect on the wonderful work that is done by all of the staff of our school – Teaching staff, Teaching Assistants, Admin Staff, Dinner Duty Supervisors, Catering staff, Maintenance staff etc etc - to support and help develop the young minds in their care. Without their dedication and time our school would not be the exciting educational place that it is.*

*On a personal note I am stepping down as Chair of Governors – 57 years in education is enough for anyone!!! However I am sure that the Academic Committee will grow from strength to strength under the very capable leadership of Alex Greenhalgh, supported by the excellent Governors who are already in post – it would also be remiss of me not to mention that we still have several Governor posts available to be filled!!!*

*I would like to thank all of you and all of the school staff for your support throughout my tenure as Chair and to wish you, and yours, health, wealth and happiness for the future.*

*With very kind regards*

*Paul Manthorpe*

*Chair of Governors*



# HAPPY HOLIDAY