

Dear Parents,

It has been an absolutely wonderful end to another year of hard work from pupils and staff. Thank you to all of our parents, grandparents and friends for your continued support. It has been brilliant seeing how enthused your children have been during the recent celebrations including the Northern Academy of Performing Arts production; we know how much you have enjoyed sharing in their delight with these. We are sure many of you have been following the children's achievements on the blog and Twitter pages; it is great when parents comment and take an interest in what we do in the academy, thank you. Along with this, we have been delighted to have comments and retweets from famous sportsmen, authors and celebrities, including James Denny (Commonwealth Medalist and Olympic Athlete) and Derek Redmond (World Champion and Olympic Athlete). Carol Vorderman regularly supports and encourages the maths learning taking place in the academy. The author J.K. Rowling has even written recently to some of our pupils in response to letters they have sent her!

This year, the academy had a number of external reviews, we wanted to share some of the things they have said about us with you:

- Basic skills are taught systematically and there is strong evidence that teaching builds on prior learning. Questioning in lessons and through CTGs is effective in extending and deepening pupils thinking and understanding. (SPTA External Review Team Jan 2016)
- Behaviour and conduct around the academy including at playtime is a strength of the academy. Pupils demonstrate care and concern for each other, older and younger pupils play well together. Pupils enjoy the rewards that they receive as part of the 'Good to be Green' policy. They understand the sanctions and consequences for poor behaviour choices. (SPTA External Review Team Jan 2016)
- The team have a shared vision and work well together to establish an enabling environment that caters for the children's interests and needs. The practitioners are passionate about their work. (Hull Local Authority May 2016)
- Estcourt Academy has a dedicated and passionate leadership team and the distributive leadership structure is made up of a team who are secure in their knowledge, dedicated to raising standards, articulate in presenting ways forward and have a secure knowledge of each other's roles. They effectively use their expertise to help nurture and coach other member of staff, and in doing so enhancing the Quality of Teaching and Learning across the Academy. (Basic Skills Quality Mark March 2016)
- Pupils' impeccable conduct reflects the school's effective strategies to promote high standards of behaviour. It is clear that over time pupils are becoming confident and self-assured learners. (Behaviour Review June 2016)

By now you will have celebrated your child's achievements of this year with them; it was fantastic to see such a wonderful turnout at Parents' Night and yet again hear such positive feedback in relation to the education and wider opportunities your children have had access to at Estcourt Primary; 87% of parents attended. There has been many celebrations this year, including winning Gold at the Biathlon; we have also secured two awards at the Hull Digital Art competition. We are looking forward to see who our first Gold Students are at the Leading Learners' assembly on Thursday 21st July at 2pm!

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We are passing on special congratulations to Y6 as they have worked extremely hard throughout the year, partaking in many lunchtime booster sessions, and extended days up to three times a week. It is super to see how your dedication has paid off Y6, and we are sure you are all pleased with your results. As an academy, we are very proud of you, and were blown away by your outstanding performance of 'Oliver' on Tuesday's matinee and Thursday evening!

As at the end of any year not only do we say goodbye to the Y6 children but also to some staff.

Mrs Fox

Mrs Fox has been an integral part of the Estcourt family for 23 years. She is much loved by children and staff alike, she will be sorely missed but we wish her every happiness in her retirement.

Mrs Midgley / Mr Waterson

Our congratulations go to Mrs Midgley, she will be leaving us to take the position of Assistant Principal at one of our sister academies. Mr Waterson, left Estcourt last month, he has been deployed to work in other School Partnership Trust Academies in West Yorkshire. We wish them both well.

Other staff

Mrs Hutchinson, Miss Newton and Miss Hodge also leave the academy, we thank them for all of their contributions, and wish them well for the future.

From September Mrs Hewitt will work across Mersey and Estcourt as Associate Principal, with Miss Oldroyd being Head of Academy when Mrs Hewitt is at Mersey.

My thanks also go to the wonderful staff team for their unwavering dedication to ensure your children receive great learning experiences. This year, due to staff going 'above and beyond' for your children, over 80% of children have regularly participated in extra-curricular activities, which are only made possible by staff volunteering their own time.

Transition Week from Mon 18th July

On Monday morning, children will enter the academy through their usual doors. They will leave on Monday night through their new class doors. Signs and staff will be assigned to each door to help you with this.

Wishing you all a safe and happy summer break.

Max Kay

Chair of Governors