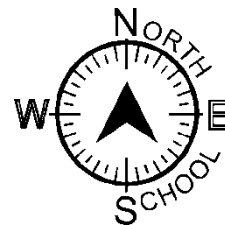


North Primary School and Nursery

A town centre school with a strong community ethos



September 2016



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to a new school year. I hope that your children are settling into their new classes and looking forward to the year ahead – whether it's their first year or last year at North School. May I offer a special welcome to all the new families who have joined us: we look forward to working with you all over the coming months and years. The governors hope you all enjoyed the summer break, and that your children are ready for new challenges in the year ahead. If it's anything like last year, it will be busy.

What a fantastic school year 2015 /16 was! It has been described as 'the best year ever' - despite enormous pressures placed on the teaching staff due to government changes in assessment, testing and expectations of the new curriculum.

Staff inspired children through fantastic topics which included the Anglo-Saxons; the Greeks; monarchs; and Brazil and the Rio Olympic games. A variety of educational trips started with the annual residential activity week for year 6 in Weymouth. Then there were visits to the Imperial War Museum, the British Museum and London theatres to see productions of Matilda and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory; bus trips and Roman walks around Colchester to explore where we live; visits to Hollytrees museum; participation in the Tesco Farm to Fork project and a visit to Tropical Wings.

The choir was busy - with several bookings in the community, including Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury's.

We had many sporting events, including some linked with the Olympic games and inter-school competitions involving our football, netball and rugby teams. The school was awarded an Enhanced Healthy Schools Award.

The *Discovering Their Footsteps* history project, to research the people behind the names on our school's roll of honour, continued for a second year. A group of children visited World War One battlefields and war graves in northern France on a highly emotional trip. Children designed poppy plaques which have been made and installed on houses of former pupils who died in WWI. The Children's University was popular with our pupils and it was a proud moment for all when participants graduated.

Open evening was a fantastic opportunity to see all the children's hard work and a great demonstration of their progression and achievement through the year, as well as their enthusiasm for topics studied. There was some excellent Design and Technology and art work on display, including teddy bears carefully sewn, pet carriers designed and constructed, and Brazilian headdresses paraded at the Rio carnival afternoon.

The children put on some excellent productions over the year, including Rumpus at the Vets, and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Music featured highly with an end of term Festival of Music to showcase the abilities of all our young musicians. North's Got Talent returned again and was expertly run by the children. Our winning band of musicians, Catfish, were runners up in the Consortium's Got Talent contest.



The Nurture Room is a project we have been working on for the past 18 months. We hope it will come to fruition this year to provide some much needed additional learning space to benefit children throughout the school.

We are looking forward to another excellent year of achievement when we will once again do our best to offer fantastic opportunities to the children to extend their learning and social skills as they develop through their childhood.

Governors are always pleased to hear from you. We can be contacted via the office, and information about the governing body can be found on the school website (www.northschool.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Jan Blackwell
Chair of Governors