



RELIGIOUS NEWS

As a school, we usually gather together to give thanks for the year and, in recognition of that, we discussed the importance of giving thanks. We explored the Miracle of The Ten Lepers where Jesus cured ten people but only one gave thanks.

I based our final Collective Worship this morning around the theme of 'Hope' as that is central to the biblical quote which underpins our vision. At the beginning of the year when we gathered as a school we shared our hopes for the year and at that stage had no idea that our year would have been interrupted in the way that it has been. The rainbow which has become synonymous with the pandemic and the sterling work of the NHS was also a real symbol of hope in the story of Noah and the promise that God made that he would never flood the world again. Our final collective worship looked at how, as a school, we also place our faith in the hope which we were promised 'For the Lord says, I know the plans I have for you, plans to give you hope and a future.' Many children will associate me with Collective Worship as that is something which I led when I was in school and something which was very important to me. My parting gift to school is a bible stand with the biblical quote engraved on it and I hope that school will soon be able to celebrate worship again and that this gift will prove useful going forward. Our Leaver's Service was celebrated virtually today and Canon Sandra based her message around the song 'It's a whole new world' and we used the message of showing love to all as the reading. Interspersed with memories from the children and pictures of children, we hope that this was a fitting end to Year 6 as they move onto new schools. Earlier in the year, I had led the introduction to one of the RE topics for the children where we looked at our journey through life. At that stage, we were oblivious to the sharp turn which would happen in our life journey in March as an unexpected milestone. My message in the service is that they should take comfort from the fact that every child is special and that we are all the better off for their contribution to us all and to know that they will have influenced us all in ways which we might never know. I wish them peace, joy and happiness as they move forward and hope that they will remember the good times from their time at Baildon.

"We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere."

ATTENDANCE

Traditionally at this time of year, we present certificates to all the children who had 100% attendance in the term and also for the year. Due to the current situation, we have looked at attendance to 20th March and are delighted that 81 children had 100% attendance over that time.

HANDS

Since March, there has been lots of talk about how important it is to wash your hands for 20 seconds, but we can no longer touch. Over the summer, can you make/ photograph/ draw/ paint / print an image of your hands. You could draw round them and cut out or decorate, make a handprint, decorate gloves, write a message/ draw on your hands, take a photo or any other means you can think of. Please send your image to your new class teacher on the VLE who will put them together, so that now we are holding hands.

READING OVER THE SUMMER

The National Literacy Trust teamed up with Puffin to ask children about their reading during lockdown. Children told them that they're reading more and enjoying reading more. They also

said that reading has helped them feel better and dream about the future during an uncertain time. They have shared the following hints to continue to support children over the summer:

- Make time for reading. Children said that time away from school and social activities during lockdown has given them more time to enjoy stories.
- Let your child choose their next story. Children said that they have loved getting to choose what they read rather than being told what to read.
- Find a quiet spot. Children said that having a quiet space to enjoy stories helped them concentrate and relax.
- Let your child explore something new. Children said that they have discovered brand new stories through ebooks, audiobooks and storytelling videos.
- Share stories together. Children said that they loved sharing stories with their family, and missed talking about them with their friends.

SEPTEMBER 2020

Following the letter last week, please be informed that Mrs Savage will communicate more details about September at the end of August.

VIRTUAL SPORTS DAY 2020

Thank you to everyone who participated in our virtual sports day – it was great to see all the photos on the VLE and on Twitter. Thank you to Mr Holliday for organising this very successful event.

BAILDON HEROES

I am sure that those of you who have been following my Baidon Heroes over the last few weeks will realise that there is just one group of people who have not featured on my roll call and, in the life of any school, they are the ‘raison d’être’ and of course that group is the children, without whom there would be no school.

Children are the reason I went into school and have continued to be the reason that I have dedicated my last thirty eight years to the profession. Many people will have heard me saying that ‘when the going gets tough, I go to Nursery’ as that reminds me of the real reason for education – the undiluted joy and innocence and enjoyment are a treat to behold and have cheered me up plenty of times! Central to my whole philosophy is the recognition that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God and that everyone is to be celebrated. I have so many happy memories of the pupils in school from the beaming smile when given a special pencil, the delight when a child gets something right after struggling with something, the fantastic music concerts, Christmas nativities as well as all the sporting activities in school to name but a few. The children here are wonderful and I echo the sentiments of Nelson Mandela when I say that *‘Our children are our greatest treasure. They are our future.’*

SCHOOL UNIFORM PROVIDERS

Parents may be unaware that Henry Smiths was taken over in November by a company called Whittakers. Currently, they are operating an appointment system for customers which can be arranged through their website www.whittakersschoolwear.co.uk through the BOOK APPT tab. It is also possible to place orders online through the same website.

Parents are also still able to purchase uniform online through <https://myclothing.com/>

NURSERY AND RECEPTION INTAKE 2020

Parents of children in Nursery and Reception 2020 should receive a letter by post about the starting arrangements for September. Please can we ask you to put this in a safe place so that you know the details which are different for different groups of children.

STAFFING UPDATE

Today, we say goodbye and good luck to Miss Quinlan, Mrs Fairchild, Miss Bedford and Miss Dearden and thank them for all their work and wish them all the best in their new jobs which

they start in September. The whole school community is looking forward to welcoming Mrs Savage, Miss Mullen and Miss Wright to school in September.

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK

Today, we officially say goodbye also to our Year 6 children and their families and some other children and families who are moving schools. We thank you for your support. Of special mention are the group of parents who have had a long association with the school, some as long as nineteen years, and we wish them all the best.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please find below the calendar which has been agreed for 2020-2021 and also the calendar for 2021-2022 which was agreed at Governors last week.

2020-2021

Thursday 3rd September 2020 School Opens

Friday 23rd October 2020 School Closes

OCTOBER HALF TERM

Monday 2nd November 2020 School Opens

Friday 18th December 2020 School Closes

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Monday 4th January 2021 School Opens

Friday 12th February 2021 School Closes

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Monday 22nd February 2021 School Opens

Friday 26th March 2021 School Closes

EASTER HOLIDAY

Monday 12th April 2021 School Opens

Monday 3rd May 2021 BANK HOLIDAY?

Friday 21st May 2021 School Closes *

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 7th June 2021 School Opens

Thursday 22nd July 2021 School Closes

*Please note that, whilst we will have a fortnight in 2021, the first week will precede the normal Half term holiday.

2021-2022

Monday 6th September 2021 School Opens

Thursday 21st October 2021 School Closes

OCTOBER HALF TERM

Monday 1 st November 2021	School Opens
Friday 17 th December 2021	School Closes

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Tuesday 4 th January 2022	School Opens
Thursday 17 th February 2022	School Closes

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Monday 28 th February 2022	School Opens
Friday 8 th April 2022	School Closes

EASTER HOLIDAY

Monday 25 th April 2022	School Opens
Monday 2nd May 2022	BANK HOLIDAY
Friday 27 th May 2022	School Closes

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 6 th June 2022	School Opens
Thursday 21 st July 2022	School Closes

*Please note that, there will only be one week for holidays in May 2022 and not the usual **fortnight**.

I wish everyone a relaxing holiday at home or abroad and hope that you all keep safe. I know the staff are ready for a well-deserved rest and would like to give a special mention to Mr Cottrell, Mr Clapham and all the cleaners who will be working throughout the summer to make sure that school is clean and ready for September.

FINAL MESSAGE FROM MRS CONNOR

It is with very mixed emotions that I finish my 192nd and final newsletter for the school. I am sure that everyone will look upon this year and only see the last four months which, whilst I understand is only natural, would in my mind be a mistake as it fails to recognise the achievements which we have enjoyed since September 2019.

Our SIAMS in October endorsed our work as a Church of England School and affirmed our vision and how we have sought to live out that vision. Our visit from the Authority in December complimented us on the depth of our curriculum and on all the music, arts and sporting opportunities which are available. Just prior to lockdown, Governors commissioned an external review and this also identified numerous strengths including our curriculum, our caring approach and our wide offer in sport and in music. In January, Mrs Adams, Miss Melvin and I presented at a conference where we shared the approaches we have taken to incorporate and develop the arts across the curriculum. Whilst we have not had any music in school recently, our Christmas Music Concert was once more a real triumph and one which showcased the quality and depth of music on offer in school involving more children than ever. We also have had a number of school trips, visits and Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic residential in November. On the sporting field, school enjoyed huge success and there are many children who leave us today as Bradford and West Yorkshire champions in a number of sports. For the fourth year in a row, we

were finalists in the Active Bradford Awards where, this year, we were nominated in three different categories- Active School, Active Team (Cross Country) and Active Workplace. Whilst we were runners up this year in all three categories, these awards endorse the work we do and are a real testament to the strength of PE and Sport in the school which is due in no small measure to many opportunities which are on offer and the time which staff give freely to ensure the excellence. Individual children have all also achieved their own successes across the curriculum. We have also continued to develop the partnership with parents and offered a large number of opportunities for parents to come into school including workshops to support the curriculum, stay and play events, cafes, consultations, art shows, stay and learn sessions, meet the teacher events as well as our hugely popular 'Parents to Dinner' sessions. We are also delighted that in the course of the year we have continued to improve the site and particularly our outdoors provision.

It is impossible to sum up the myriad of emotions that I feel as I write this newsletter as I reflect on what has been an enormously rewarding career and one where I have never regretted my calling. Teaching is both a privilege and a responsibility to play a part in the education of the young and one which I have really enjoyed. I realise that some of the decisions which have been taken have not always been favourably received but hope that these have also been respected as part of that responsibility entrusted in us as leaders.

Many people have commented how this is not how I would have expected to finish my career, which is true, but thanks to everyone who has managed to make it an extremely memorable final day. I received my final instructions last night from Mr Holmes who described them 'worryingly like a cross between a timetable for Ofsted and a timetable for SIAMS!' - enough to instil fear in anyone. Thankfully, it has been neither like Ofsted nor like SIAMS! Anyone who knows me well will know that I am extremely proud of my Irish heritage and the green, white and gold have been everywhere today, including a tricolour flying on the flagpole! Everyone really pulled out the stops to make sure that I would never forget my final day and the real benefit of virtual recordings is of course that I have them for posterity! My virtual message from the Right Reverend Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds, left me speechless and reminded me of the song 'Sheep, Sheep, Sheep' which I introduced to school as a 'Message from a Bishop, from a Bishop, is not what you expect!' I am sure that parents in Key Stage 2 will appreciate this comment and no doubt parents in Key Stage 1 will be introduced to the carol in years to come. Thanks to everyone who played a part in all the proceedings. I would like to thank all the parents for their lovely cards, letters, gifts and words of thanks over the past week, which are very much appreciated. As I leave, I have one final request for parents and that is that you will extend a very warm welcome to Mrs Savage and all new staff in September – it is never easy to come to a school where everyone knows who you are and you know no-one!

There are many times over the years that I have used the poem, 'A People Place' in Baildon as that is what it is, a place which is full of people who respect each other, support each other and allow everyone to be themselves. Whereas I will not miss the emails, the reports, the complaints, the deadlines, the assessments, I will, without a doubt, miss the people, young and old.

*If this is not a place where tears are understood,
Where do I go to cry?
If this is not a place where my spirits can take wing,
Where do I go to fly?
If this is not a place where my questions can be asked,
Where do I go to seek?
If this is not a place where my feelings can be heard,
Where do I go to speak?
If this is not a place where you'll accept me as I am,
Where can I go to be?
If this is not a place where I can try to learn and grow,*

Where can I be just me?

Two years ago, I shared a reading, 'A Creed to Live By,' at the Leavers' Service which touched a chord with many people and, once more today, I used the same message for our Year 6 leavers as it mentions both hope and a journey which echo our biblical quote as well as the journey of life. I am now looking forward to the rest of my journey!

Don't dismiss your dreams. To be without dreams is to be without hope; to be without hope is to be without purpose. Don't run through life so fast that you forget not only where you've been, but also where you're going. Life is not a race, but a journey to be savoured each step of the way.

A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF AND GOVERNORS

As we approach our last few days of the summer term, the time has come to pay special tribute to Mrs Connor who is retiring at the end of August.

Mrs Connor has dedicated the last 7 years of her 38 year teaching career to us here at Baidon. Her commitment, care and compassion have benefited our whole school community as well as some fortunate schools in the wider area through her work with Eden Teaching School and as an NLE. It is this work ethic and the impact she has had on so many that has earned her the respect of the children and parents, colleagues and those within the Diocese. It is fair to say that Baidon Church School wouldn't be the school it is today without Mrs Connor's commitment and leadership, not to mention the personal and professional sacrifices she has made along the way for the benefit of the children and staff. Under her leadership we have learnt to live out our school's Christian vision, values and ethos, SOARing to new heights!

I'm sure you will all join us in sending all our good wishes for a peaceful and happy retirement.