



The Heads Up



July 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is our last newsletter of the year indeed my last newsletter. The end of a school year brings both joy and sadness. We are ready to finish for the summer, but it is also the time to say farewell to those who have given such outstanding service to this school.

Each year brings its own challenges and this year has been no exception. We have continued to work closely with Holy Trinity and Mr Crehan has now been appointed permanently as Head teacher.

We announced our decision to convert to an Academy and the deadline we are working towards is November 1st 2018. We also had a visit from Ofsted in early June which went well.

Archbishop Ilsley like every other school has had to tighten its belt as the impact of reduced budgets has hit. We have made many savings this year and as a result we have been able to set a budget and avoid deficit. Thanks here should go to the work of the School Business Manger Mrs C. Burge and the Governing Body. I can state confidently that all classes will continue to be taught by qualified specialist teachers next year. This sadly is not the case for all schools.

Your child attends a good school and Ofsted confirmed this earlier in the summer. I want to say a big thank you to you as parents because your contribution to the achievement of the school is significant. I thank you for choosing Ilsley. You made the right decision, and I thank you for staying loyal and believing in us through some difficult times. Hold your head with pride when other parents look down on Ilsley, because you now know it's a school that is rapidly improving. And will continue to do so. I wanted also to thank your children who are an amazing group of young people.

Finally a big thank you to all those who work at the school, teachers, teaching assistants, the admin team, technicians, cleaners, caretakers, dinner ladies, everyone. They all work so hard to get their school to this stage. I say their school because it is, like you and the pupils, all who work here are so proud of Ilsley. Well done everyone.

**Archbishop Ilsley is a good
school**

Staff leaving our Family

It is always sad to say farewell but we have a number of staff leaving us at the end of the year.

Mrs. B. Stokes is retiring after 39 years of working at Archbishop Ilsley. She started her career here in 1979. Cars by Gary Numan was number one. Amongst her many achievements she has taught many generations how to cook. But as her career progressed she is retiring as Head of School with a good Ofsted report under her leadership.

Dr. B. Patel is taking up a new teaching post in London.

Mr. A Powell is moving to another school on the other side of the city.

Mrs L. Byrne one of our teaching assistants and an ex-Ilsley pupil is retiring she has been with us since 2006, and all her children came to Ilsley.

Mr H Ashton our Head of Science is retiring he has been with us since 2001 but teaching since 1981.

Mr D. McCarthy who has taught French with us since 1989 is also retiring.

Mr C. Crehan who has been working at Holy Trinity since September 2016 has now been appointed as permanent Headteacher and will not be returning

I wish them all well in the future.

Finally I am retiring after 37 years at Archbishop Ilsley. I have been honoured to be a teacher of History at this school and I have been humbled to be the Headteacher for the last six years. Headship has been an uneasy time for me but I have gotten through because of the support of pupils, teachers, Governors and parents. Many of you will never know how impactful some of your comments have been on me and with your backing I have resolutely stuck to the task, Thank you.

Website

Please have a look at the school website. We have worked hard to make it helpful to you as parents. We have put a Video Newsletter on which tries to keep you up to date with what's going on here at school. However we would welcome your feedback on anything else that you think would be useful. Please let us know. We are looking to revamp the website next year.

Litter

There have been significant improvements but I am concerned about the amount of litter in school. Pupils should not bring food out of the canteen as there is plenty of space to eat inside. I am amazed at what some of our pupils eat on the way to school. Farm Foods is doing a roaring trade in Jaffa Cakes and 2L bottles of Cola. Can I remind you that the school canteen is open before school serving healthier options? It has been proven that young people who eat a breakfast and walk to school perform better in their exams. Encourage your child to do both.

Awards Evening

We held our fifth awards evening at Villa Park earlier this month. It was great to see over 500 parents present and to be led in an inspirational address by Phil Brown, Olympian and silver medal winner in the LA games of 1984. His story of growing up in Erdington and going on to achieve so much was inspirational.



Have a good break.

