



Looking back:

As we approach the end of term, I'd like to take the opportunity in my final newsletter, to reflect upon our progress over the last 6 months. Whilst there have undoubtedly been many challenges for us all, there has also been so much to celebrate with regard to our school —so much good news and so many exciting developments! I often say to pupils that it is important on any journey to look back, to see where you've come from, as well as having an eye to the what lies ahead. It seems timely to do just that!

Since January, we have...

- ⇒ Recruited a team of outstanding Teachers and Support Staff
- ⇒ Designed and developed our website
- ⇒ Written and had approval of all our policies
- ⇒ Appointed Responsible Teachers (curriculum leaders) and prepared our curriculum
- ⇒ Established a Parent Forum
- ⇒ Consulted on and chosen our smart, eco-friendly uniform
- ⇒ Held two meetings of the PTFA and started planning events for our community
- ⇒ Elected and appointed our Local Governing Body, ready to convene in September
- ⇒ Successfully navigated our first Ofsted inspection
- ⇒ Planned a wonderful range of enrichment opportunities (including sport, music and drama)
- ⇒ Held a competition for the Year 6 pupils to design our planner
- ⇒ Had a wonderful photo shoot with some of our new Year 7 pupils
- ⇒ Developed the Y7 Transition page on our website and gone 'online' for transition day
- ⇒ Met every pupil at their Primary School (a highlight for me personally)
- ⇒ Met almost all of our parents at the drop-in day in July
- ⇒ Held a fantastic staff induction day
- ⇒ Set up all the IT and management information systems so that the school can operate smoothly from the outset
- ⇒ And taken occupation of our temporary home at Balcarras, which has been completed early and is fully furnished

I would sincerely like to thank the parents, pupils, my colleagues at Balcarras School, and everyone involved in our community for your support over the last 6 or 7 months in making all these achievements possible. We have said from the outset that our vision is to create a 'flagship school at the heart of its community' and this has formed the basis for all of our thinking and hard work to date. I hope that you share my pride in what has been achieved. I would particularly like to thank the parents for choosing our school for your child, for trusting us, and for your incredible support in helping us get off to the best possible start.





Looking forward:

I want to sign off for summer with some fantastic images of our school at Farm Lane. I had the pleasure of visiting last week, scaling the heights up onto the roof and the progress (and the view) is absolutely fantastic!



The view from the roof



The corner of the courtyard



The Dining Hall wing



Walls going up inside the Dining Hall



The view looking back from the Astro to School



The West Wing steels completed

We have so much to look forward to!

With warm wishes for a wonderful summer.

Helen Wood

Headteacher

