

Dear Parents

Since my resignation was announced a few weeks ago so many parents have said how sorry they are that I am leaving along with saying many other lovely things. Thank you for these kind words of appreciation and your good wishes for my future all of which are much appreciated. Thank you also to all those of you who have contributed to the success of the school over the last 14 years.

I first started work as a teacher in 1976 and the children in my first class will turn 50 years old next year which does make me feel old. Since then I have been a headteacher for 19 years and for 14 of these years a headteacher at Rickmansworth Park. At the end of this term my everyday life in schools will come to an end, although I will continue working in schools as an OFSTED inspector and as an educational consultant. I am also intending to complete my own education by attending university to gain a doctorate. I don't think I will ever be able to stop working in the world of education. I know that I have been incredibly lucky to have had a job which I love and where I have been able to achieve so much. Not least of these achievements has been bringing Rickmansworth Park to the brink of OFSTED outstanding and I know that I am leaving with the school in a healthy financial position when so many schools are struggling to make ends meet.

There have been so many huge successes over the years and far too many to even begin to list in this letter. However one event I will always remember was when Jeremy Strong, the children's author, spent the day with us. He had said that he would officially open the new reception class room but would only cut the ribbon and would not make a speech. As we walked together to open the classroom he asked if he could make a speech after all as he specifically wanted to say something. He went on to tell parents that he had been a teacher and had visited well over a thousand schools as an author, a few of them "stood out" and Rickmansworth Park School was definitely a "stand out school". I am so proud of everything that Rickmansworth Park School has become making it such a "stand out school". Our children achieve exceptionally high standards not only in English and maths but across the curriculum including sport and the arts. The children here exemplify "Excellence and Enjoyment". The staff have always worked hard together to provide a wide range of

opportunities so that children can enjoy their education and have a chance for their talents to shine and this has made Rickmansworth Park a vibrant and exceptional learning organisation. I am also incredibly proud of the way so many of our staff start here and enthusiastically take advantage of all of the professional development opportunities we offer so that they thrive and quickly progress in their careers. Amazingly, we have numerous staff who started here as volunteer parents or supply teachers and then progress rapidly up the career ladder. As a result of such successful career progression I can now leave Rickmansworth Park School knowing that the school is in good hands and will continue to flourish.

I will miss the warmth, humour and strong camaraderie of colleagues and I'll also miss our children with their characteristic joy and enthusiasm for all aspects of school life. I wish the school continued success in the future and I am sure it will continue to flourish as a "stand out" school.

Yours sincerely

Peta Dyke