



## **Headteacher's Update - May 2023**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Every half term seems to fly by and this one is no exception. This is an important period in our annual cycle and it has been a busy one. It even included the chance for us all to dress up as royalty for our Coronation event. This short update is primarily a chance for me to thank staff, pupils and parents for all the support and effort required at this time of year.

First and foremost year 6 completed their end of key stage SATs and deserve congratulations on their hard work and positive attitude. We have to follow strict guidelines when we deliver the assessments and the papers are often challenging. This year was no exception and you may have even seen coverage in the media about the demands of this year's content. Our year 6 pupils showed real resilience and tried their best which is all that matters. They were calm, took the week seriously, were fully focused and did their best. I would like to add my thanks to the year 6 parents as well who ensured children were in with time to spare so there was no additional stress or disruption. Thank you all for prioritising this week. I must add a sincere thank you to the year 6 team as well who offered extra after school booster sessions to ensure every pupil felt well prepared and confident.

This half term also saw the start of our residential trip season. So far, year 4 and 5 have both enjoyed their residential trips and gained a great deal in the process. I would like to offer another thank you to both the staff and parent helpers in particular for giving up their time to make these trips happen. I know the children had a great time, made some lasting memories and really appreciate the experience.

The third key focus over recent weeks is our transition process with the Infant schools. Year 2 pupils visit Cleves in small groups for a meeting with staff and a school tour with our pupil mentors. For many of our new pupils this is their first visit to Cleves, so it's a really important opportunity for us to welcome our next cohort and put them at ease. I am sure all the staff involved will not mind me saying that the mentors make this process such a success. Our older pupils kindly volunteer their time after school to greet our visitors and show them around our school. I have no doubt the year 2 pupils and parents find this invaluable. Our current pupils are such an amazing advert for Cleves and never fail to impress.

This half term concludes with several important events and even the weather cooperated to help make our final week a memorable one.

My next thank you is to Mr Kilhams for hosting another fantastic summer concert. Many of our pupils shared their musical talents with us this week in another superb recital. Every time they play I am in awe of not just their talent but also their commitment. The level many of our pupils perform at is stunning and well beyond anything I have seen in the many other schools I have worked in, or supported over the years. It is no exaggeration to say Mr Kilhams continues to inspire us all to give music a go.

In this same week our brilliant PTA put on a Summer Fair and somehow managed to arrange for perfect weather after weeks of grey skies and rain. On behalf of everyone that attended I would like to thank Mrs Dury and her team for managing this event. Hundreds of you joined us on a glorious evening and it was lovely to see parents sitting out enjoying pizza (and perhaps a glass of wine) while the children ran around having fun. There was a lovely atmosphere and almost everyone that walked past me as they left offered their thanks to all involved. A really lovely way to end the half term.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C Hodges".

Mr C. Hodges  
Headteacher