

Summer 2013

Hillcrest Newsletter

Dear Parents

I am taking this opportunity as Chairman of the school's Governing Body to write to thank you for your support during the last school year.

As you will be aware the school's current head teacher, Colin Gibson is retiring at the end of this school year after giving over 18 years excellent service to the school. Having worked with Colin for that period of time I can confirm how hard he personally worked with the Local Authority, School Governors, Staff, Parents, Pupils and External Agencies to move the school forward and achieve a very encouraging OFSTED Report of, "Good" with some, "Outstanding Features." Mr Gibson also encouraged all pupils to see how important education is for their own personal futures. The extension and improvements to the school site have been overseen by Mr Gibson during the last 5 years and this has also been linked to a major overhaul of the school curriculum and the achievements in school accreditations such as, Investors in People / Work Life Balance and Healthy Schools Award.

On behalf of the Governors, Staff, Parents and Pupils I would personally like to thank Mr Gibson for his hard work over the past 18 years and the major contribution that he has made to the development of the school and its current excellent reputation in the Cramlington area and wish him personally a long and happy retirement.

The school is also losing its caretaker, Brian Thompson after 15 years of sterling service. Again, I would like to thank Brian and his wife Kathleen for the hard work and the support they have given to the school and to wish them both well in their well-earned retirement.

In September 2013, the school welcomes Mrs Andrea Mead, the school's current Deputy Head teacher as the school's new Head. I am sure Parents would want to join with me, fellow Governors and school staff to wish her every success in her new role.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the School Governing Body to wish you all well and hope that you have a well-earned summer break ready for the school year starting in September.

John Joynson
Chair of Governors



Year 7

Year 7 had a lovely day out last week. We went to St. Marys' Lighthouse rock pooling; we found and identified many fascinating creatures. Then we went for a three course lunch in an Italian restaurant. The children choose from the menu then ordered their own food. This was a great experience and valuable social skills lesson. After our lunch and with very full tummies we went to Paddy Freemans park. The students were a credit to the school.

Goodbye and Thank You

The end of another year and my last as Head Teacher of Hillcrest School.

I would like to thank all pupils, staff, parents, carers, governors and visiting professionals (past and present) for their support and friendship over the past 18 years.

I look forward to retirement but will miss the Hillcrest Community immensely.

I know the school will continue to prosper under Mrs Mead's leadership and look forward to hearing about its future successes.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Brian Thompson and his wife Kathleen our caretaking and cleaning team. Brian is without doubt the best caretaker in Northumberland and the contribution these people have made to our school's success has been immense.

I wish Brian and Kathleen a long and happy retirement.

Goodbye and Thank You.
Mr Gibson

Summer Fair

What a contrast to last year – the weather for our fair was fantastic. We very quickly sold out of coca cola as it was such a lovely hot summer day. It was great to see parents and families attending and supporting us. A special thank you to Mrs Reynolds, who must be spending her retirement in the garden judging by the number of lovely planters and pots she brought us to sell to raise funds. Also thank you to Joseph Baker, a former pupil of ours, who made and donated a fantastic cake to our fair. Despite the heat everyone seemed to enjoy the afternoon and we raised just over £400 thanks to your generosity. A great big thank you to all of you who supported our fair, either by buying raffle tickets, donating items or attending on the day.

