



National News



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July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have written a number of letters home to parents over time but this is without doubt the most difficult of them all, as it is my final one. As you are aware I will not be returning in September but retiring. I am saddened to be leaving as I have had the most amazing experience as Executive Headteacher of The Harrowby/National Academies Trust but I know that Mrs Comerford will be brilliant, leading the schools and the process of conversion to the Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust.



I will especially miss your wonderful children. We have pupils who are full of compassion, who care for one another and live our Christian values every single day. They make me extremely proud and I know they will all go on to do great things in later life.

I have so many things to be grateful for, not many Executive Headteachers have the experience of having an entire staff team that they love working with. They all work extremely hard to give the best they can to our pupils. They make it a joy to come into work each day and I will miss this extended family.

I have also been surrounded by a leadership team and trustees who have been a pleasure to collaboratively work with. I know at times it's not always been easy, especially through lockdowns, but even through the tough times we've always managed to see the humour and keep a smile on our faces. I will truly miss you all.

To all of the parents and carers, I cannot thank you enough. Without hesitation you took me in and made me feel welcome from the start. You have engaged and voiced your opinions, shared your concerns and worries and I hope that you have found that we have taken the time to listen. I will never say we get everything right all the time but we have strived to do our very best and I know the team will continue to do so after I have gone.

Although I am sad to be leaving I am excited about the future, sharing time with my husband and seeing our lovely grandchildren. I wish the Harrowby/National family all the best, I will miss you all and look forward to hearing about all your future achievements.

Mrs Anne Platt
Retiring Executive Headteacher



From the Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have just returned to my office after popping in to see the children with their new classes and class teachers. They are all looking excited and keen to please. In this heat and at this time of the term this is truly amazing! The year six classes are enjoying some free time down on the Paddock.

The week has been busy, with year five enjoying a scorching day at Belton house - thank goodness for the shade of the trees. We have also started to celebrate the success of the year with the attendance raffles being drawn on Monday. The winners were: year three - **Thomas Wong** (3CW), year four - **Alea Woodward** (4FH), year five - **Owen Woodward** and year six - **Ellie Rose** (6HP). On Tuesday, the Taunt and Cullen cups will be awarded to the year six boy and girl who have made a significant contribution to our school. This is always a difficult one to choose, as we have many close contenders. Music awards were also be awarded on Tuesday. Today Mrs Thompson our attendance officer has awarded many children with 100% attendance certificates and one special award to **Felix Baker** (6SG) who has had 100% attendance since he started here at the National in 2017. Fantastic!



As we say goodbye to another school year and our year six children leave us, it is a time of mixed emotions. We are also saying goodbye to a few members of our staff. Mrs Braime and Mrs Bellamy will no longer be supervising at lunchtime. We wish them the very best for their future. Mrs Hadwick is leaving us to focus on her stationary business, again we wish her the very best of luck for the future. Mrs Spence is also leaving us and moving onto pastures new - she will be missed. Our School Business Manager, Mrs Harris, is also leaving us and moving to a larger school in Lincoln. She has worked tirelessly, behind the scenes keeping us all in line with current legislation. We wish her well in her new challenge.

Finally, from the National School, we are also saying goodbye to Mrs Platt, our Executive Headteacher. Mrs Platt has dedicated 37 years to the education of children in Lincolnshire and Rutland. Her wealth of experience and knowledge will be greatly missed as will her immaculate nails and the world's largest brooch collection. I am sure you join me in wishing her a long and happy retirement with her beloved husband and family.

I hope you have enjoyed receiving your child's books home this year (there are a few we have had to keep but they will be handed over at the end of term 2). Please take time over the holidays to celebrate with your children. For those of you who would like to support learning over the holidays, Oak Academy website have lessons you can access for free. The children will be bringing their maths practice books home and they could finish them.

I am delighted to let you know that Miss Hemming's baby, Arlo, arrived safely on Friday 16th July, 7lbs and 15oz - mum and baby are home and doing well.

All that is left for me to say is that I thank you all very much for your support over the year. It has not been an easy one for anybody but my hope is that there will be no/little disruption next year. I wish you and your families a safe and relaxing holiday and I look forward to welcoming you back on **Monday 6th September 2021**. Remember drop off and pick up times and processes remain the same (after parental consultation).

Peace be with you,

Mrs Comerford



Staff

I am sure everyone joins me in saying a huge thank you to the staff who are leaving us to start new challenges in the Autumn Term.

Mrs Platt - Very excited to start her retirement

Mrs Harris - Moving on to an exciting new venture

Mrs Spence - Continuing teaching within a new school

Mrs Hadwick - Following her business venture dream

Mrs Anderton - looking forward to becoming teacher in charge at Harrowby infants

We hope that they remember their time working at our trust with fondness and take our love and best wishes with them in their new roles.

We are looking forward to **Mrs Cox** from Harrowby who will be joining the National staff in year 3. This will mean Harrowby children will see a familiar face as they start their new school.

Ideal Meals

PLEASE NOTE: the deadline for online ordering for parents is Sunday at midnight.

The last date for ordering for the first week of term will be **SUNDAY 29th AUGUST**, please mark it in your diary.



Uniform Suppliers

To order your school uniform please visit the **Nation-wide school uniform website:**

www.nationawideschooluniforms.co.uk



National School Contact Details

Please see below contact information for the school:

General Enquiries: 01476 563895

nationalinfo@thnatrust.org.uk

Childcare Club: nationalchildcare@thnatrust.org.uk

School Website: www.nationaljunior.co.uk



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FREE SCHOOL



Message from Sports Co-ordinators

As we come to the end of another academic year it has been great to begin to see some normality resume with sporting events. Although we have still not been able to compete and take part in all of the events that we are used to I'm hoping we are gradually getting closer to this.

Our school sports days this year were amazing! All children took part enthusiastically and competed well in their races. It was lovely to see the fantastic sportsmanship between all of the children.

Another event we were so pleased to be able to take part in this term was the Grantham Rotary Club Swimathon. 40 children represented our school and swam 812 lengths between them in just under an hour! Well done to each and every one of you for taking part. A big thank you your sponsorship money too, the Rotary club were absolutely blown away with our donation of over £1400.

Our Bronze Ambassadors this year, Mia, Megan, Max and Jack have been amazing! Your help at each of our sports days this year was invaluable. We hope you are able to continue being fantastic sporting role models at your secondary schools. Good Luck!

We will keep you updated in September with after school clubs and hopefully news of local competitions being able to take place again.

In September, children will continue to come to school in their PE kit on their PE day. Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit. Children should wear a plain t-shirt in their house colour as well as plain, dark coloured shorts/joggers and a sweatshirt/hooded top.

We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer! Keep active!

Mrs Murphy and Miss Osborne

Child Care Club - Booking Procedure

The arrangements for booking and payment will continue to be via Parentmail. You will be able to book the following sessions:

AM - 7:30 – Start of School £4.50	7:50 – Start of School £4.00
PM - End of School – 4:00 pm £2.00	End of School – 4:30 pm £4.00
End of School – 5:00 pm £6.00	End of School – 5:30 pm £8.00

We have also added 4.30 to 5.00pm and 4.30 to 5.30 pm for anyone wishing to use childcare after attending an afterschool club.

It is important that you book the correct session times. If you book from end of school - 4.00 pm but collect at 4.05 pm you will be charged the extra £2.00 separately.

We require at least 24 hours' notice of your child's attendance at Club. Equally, we ask you to advise us at least 24 hours in advance of any changes to previously advised dates. Refunds will be issued only if the booking is cancelled within 24 hours.

All outstanding invoices will need to be paid before you will be able to book your place. If you pay by childcare vouchers please allow time for the payment to reach our bank account and the amount credited to your Parentmail account for you to use.

You will be able to book up to a term in advance. It will be up to you how many sessions you book at any one time.

If you plan to use the childcare club from September please ensure you have completed the Terms and Conditions/Booking access form sent on Parentmail. Please email the school to request the form to be sent.

Completing this form is the only way to be granted access to the booking system.

The childcare club will re-open on **Monday 6th September**.

A message from Mrs Page

Thank you to all the children who have been with us throughout this difficult year. The children are amazingly resilient and an inspiration. Both adults and children seemed to enjoy a change of scenery at Harrowby - different toys to play with, new friends and a change of outdoor space - but it has been wonderful to be back at the Nash, watching our children enjoying playing with their friends and seeing faces we had missed.

As always, our planning has been child led, and it has involved us in some interesting activities. The cashless sweepstake for the Euros being one. There were a few spare tickets, not many, and that meant that no one drew England and no one drew Italy, so we all shared the prize. We built ourselves a solar oven to melt marshmallows to make s'mores, but since then we haven't had enough continuous hot sun for it to work, but CCC doesn't give up easily so we will keep it and try in September, if we don't succeed before then. However, many other activities have gone to plan and been much enjoyed by all the children. Making bubble tubes was one and cooking Swedish Chocolate Bonbons were just two of many, including building our own Christmas Tree.

If you need help with funding for your childcare next year please have a look at

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

If you have any queries about childcare club for next year please email us at: nationalchildcare@thnatrust.org.uk

Have a great summer holiday, enjoy the sunshine and perhaps you could make your own solar oven. We are looking forward to seeing all our children in September and many new faces too.

Ms Page
Senior CCC Supervisor

Music

Well done to all of our musicians at the National School who have been accessing tuition from the Lincolnshire Music Service, I hope you have enjoyed the different way of learning this year incorporating online and face to face! It has been a real shame that the end of our school year has not been filled with the sound of our wonderful National School choirs and whole school singing of hymns in assembly, but it is with great pride that the Year 5 bubble choir have managed to keep singing in between bubble closures and lockdown - a particular highlight was performing in the promotional video - you were amazing!

I'm sure we will welcome lots of new and exciting ways to make and share music in September -fingers crossed! Finally I would like to wish all of our Year 6 musicians good luck in your new school and I hope that you will continue to share your love of music at Secondary!

Music Instrumental Tuition

If you would like your children to **continue** with LMS music tuition or indeed if you would like to **register for your child to begin** instrumental tuition please read the information detailed in the letter which hopefully you have received on ParentMail and register with the new online system of LMS online booking.

We are able to offer musical tuition on a variety of instruments including, violin, cello, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, and trombone. COVID19 has resulted in new ways of working for Lincolnshire Music Service in order to shape how they deliver our music instrumental tuition. They will be able to provide tuition which will be either face to face, virtual (LMS DigiTeach) or a combination of both.

<https://uklincsmusicservice.speedadmin.dk/registration#/>

September Opening

We very much look forward to welcoming back, or for the first time, the pupils of The National Junior School.

We will still offer a supervised drop off for pupils with younger siblings at infant schools in Grantham. This will be on the back playground, from 8:30am and parents are asked to sign their child/children in with the adult on duty. This facility is to allow parents to get younger siblings to their schools on time and is not intended for working parents. There is a paid child care club which can be pre-booked via the office for this.

There are now two start times for the day, 8.35 to 8.45am (for years 3 and 4) and 8.50 to 9.00am (for years 5 and 6). Years 3 and 5 will enter school from the front playground and years 4 and 6 from the back playground.

We will share with pupils on the first day their new fire exit routes and meeting points. Once pupils have been shown this place, this is where we would like them to stand on arrival at school until a member of staff comes and collects their class. For pupils using classrooms off the back playground this will mean a meeting point on the churchyard. The children will then be called into school to line up on their respective playgrounds. It is essential that you do not allow your child to arrive before the allocated time and that you collect promptly.

In line with parental consultation, parents should only enter the school grounds when it is essential to do so, therefore parents should not wait with their children on the school grounds.

It is expected that children arrive on time. Please notify the office if your child is going to be late for any reason and ensure that any children arriving late register at the school office. Continual lateness will result in parents being called for a meeting to discuss the situation and the attendance policy followed.

Thank you for your cooperation with these measures and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Year 3

It only seems like 5 minutes since Year 3 had their very first day at the National School! Despite the unconventional start to their time at the National, the children have shown immense resilience and shone brightly throughout this year - both socially and with their learning. Their never ending energy and enthusiasm is something that has helped keep the adults going too. The year started well, with a Roald Dahl day and lots of settling in activities. Everyone made a great start and settled into different routines, different classrooms and with different teachers.

Then during remote learning the children had yet more different routines to get used to, but again, they all seemed to take it in their stride and we loved seeing their smiling faces on screen each morning. What an achievement remote learning was! It wasn't without its challenges. It was far from easy.

On our return to school we were a little apprehensive but had so much planned - Roman day, Sports day, Cricket and Country-side day and a trip to Belton. Although these activities were slightly different from normal, we are grateful that we were able to enjoy them.

This final week sees the children meeting their new teachers for year 4. We will miss the smiles and sparkle of our year 3 children, but we are proud that they are ready for the challenges of year 4. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time with them and wish them well in year 4.

A huge thank you to parents and adults at home - your support has helped so much this year.

We wish you a happy, healthy and enjoyable summer - have fun!

From the Year 3 team.

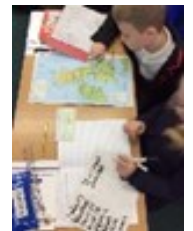
Year 4

It's strange to think our year 4's are so close to becoming year 5s, the time has flown by. This hasn't been a typical year; at least it has been a memorable one. In September, children and staff were keen to get back into face to face learning and get back into the routine of school life. It was like we hadn't been away. We quickly got back into 'the new normal' with hand washing routines in place and were able to work safely with their peers once again.



Egyptian day was a highlight early on in the year with some amazing activities, which included a vegan stew that children just kept coming back for more. Children learnt some important food hygiene and preparation skills, including the slicing of vegetables.

Sadly, after Christmas the Prime Minister had some bad news for us and it was back into lockdown. Year 4 showed great resilience and spirit in keeping up with the work set on Google Classroom and were able to meet virtually with their peers. The children made the best of a bad situation and a huge thank you must be said to all the parents who helped task, manage and assist the children, even when they had their own adaptations to make so that they could work from home.



When we got back into school it wasn't long until we were able to go out on the first school trip since March 2020! We were able to get to play Cricket with Belvoir cricket club, learn about indigenous trees and wildlife and see the hounds. The children really enjoyed it and it was a great way to get in touch with nature.

Finally, this term we have been learning about Vikings. Viking day saw some amazing weaving from the children, who got to test their patience as it was very fiddly work. They also were able to create some protective jewellery and learn the holy art of carving runes.

A huge thank you to all of your support, it has been a very trying year and I feel we have a lot to celebrate. We couldn't have done it without your support.



Mr Grimwood.

Year 5 News

Year 5

It seems such a short time ago that our new Year 5s appeared in our classrooms last September, and now they are almost fully fledged Year 6s!

Time flies when you are having fun – and this year has been a very unusual year for us all!

We started the year learning all about the Tudors and enjoyed reading *Spy Master* our class novel – we loved studying Tudor portraits and manage to squeeze in our Tudor Day before our first bubble closure. It was super to see the children dressed up and engaging in the activities. Term 2 came to a strange end with the whole year group bubble closure but the children really stepped up to engage in the remote learning and did themselves proud – it is quite surprising how quickly this way of teaching and learning has seemed ‘normal’. A special shout out to all parents too for supporting and teaching their children!

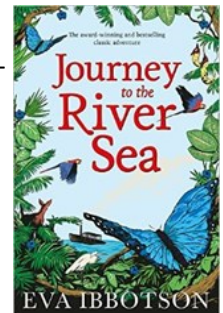
It was so refreshing to welcome back the children to face to face learning in Term 4 -it didn't take us long to settle back in to working in our classrooms.

In Term 5 we enjoyed the topic of Brazil and learning about the rainforests, whilst studying life cycles in Science. This was complemented by our visit from ZooLab - the children loved getting to see the animals up close.



Term 6 was exciting too with Sports Day returning, we were lucky with the weather! The Year 5 PGL trip was successful with children challenging themselves, trying new activities and working on their resilience and teamwork. We loved engaging in Science Week, we made our own glue and sewed lab coats and enjoyed watching the awesome Sublime Science show!

The children have also enjoyed reading *Journey to the River Sea* – and understanding the different journeys of the various characters – it was a great achievement for the children to finally quiz the book.



Year 5, we wish you all the best as you move on to your final year at The National.

The Year 5 Team

PGL was a hit for all



The Sensory Trail



Miss Hanbury



Team 3 Loving Life



Group Leads



The Giant Swing



Mrs Thomas



Armed Forces Day



Wow, this year has flown by in the blink of an eye and our lovely Year 6s are now preparing for their next big adventure at their prospective secondary schools. We wish them every success in all that they do and feel very privileged that we have been able to see them grow over this year.

Once again, it has been a year of change and difference but despite all of this, the children have shown enormous resilience, adapting quickly and showing such endurance.

We started September learning all about the Greek civilization and greatly enjoyed solving a Greek murder mystery linked to the Olympics. We explored life in Ancient Greece and particularly enjoyed creating our own paintings of the Parthenon. We discovered how to create Greek patterns and loved making our Greek costumes. Such fun!

During Term 2 and 3, we experienced bubble closures and moved on to remote learning. However, this didn't stop the children – they quickly adapted once again, accessing their learning through Google classroom and joining the daily Google meets. It was so lovely to see them all working hard each day, despite how strange it all seemed – nothing stopped them! The meets were particularly special as we got to know many of the children's pets and it became a lovely time to share music, songs and quizzes. It's just amazing how creative your children are – a big, big thank you to all the grown-ups for your support and patience. Year 6 were outstanding!

We were so pleased to finally be able to welcome the children back in to school, where they quickly settled and again, took everything in their stride. We were fortunate to receive a grant from the The Worth Wanfleete Foundation to fund our small garden project – this will continue next year.

In Term 5, as part of our Science, we looked at Habitats, Adaptation and Variation, learning about different species. This was enhanced with a visit from ZooLab who shared a range of exotic and interesting creatures with the children – they were much braver than the staff!



In Term 6 we continued our work on Coastlines and enjoyed a very exciting Sports Day. We also had a very exciting Science Week – learning how to make glue and creating our own snack bars as well as watching the mesmerising Sublime Science show – it was fantastic!

This year, the children have enjoyed receiving their very special leaver's hoodies – we hope they will treasure them. We have loved reading Letters from the Lighthouse – a book that linked beautifully to our World War II and Coastlines topics – all the children have successfully quizzed the book. We also enjoyed a glorious day at Belton House – with some very tired legs but very happy hearts.



So as the year comes to an end, we enjoyed our Leavers service on Tuesday – a chance to celebrate all the fabulous achievements of our wonderful Year 6 and wish them all the very best for their future.

The Year 6 Team