

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of Year Letter

As we approach the end of another school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the journey we've taken together and to thank you for the trust, support and encouragement you continue to show our school.



This year has been one filled with energy, creativity, curiosity and connection. Whether it's been in classrooms, out in our community, or across the stunning Cornish landscape we call home, your children have been given so many rich opportunities to thrive, explore, and grow. Through our Adventurous Curriculum, train rides to Truro, the most wonderful residentials, sporting events, science investigations, creative arts projects and the joy of our school performances—our pupils have truly embraced everything that's come their way with enthusiasm and resilience.

One of the most joyful parts of this year has been our programme of residential experiences. These are a huge part of who we are as a school, rooted in our belief that education extends far beyond the classroom walls. We have a clear intent to build these experiences gradually, year on year, to develop children's confidence, independence and sense of adventure. Our Year 1 and 2 children had a wonderful one-night sleepover in school, a first experience away from home for many. Year 3 camped out under canvas on the school field—embracing the school grounds with torches, midnight feasts and plenty of giggles! Year 4 and 5 ventured further afield to Porthpean for a two-night stay packed with outdoor challenges, and Year 6 travelled to North Wales for four nights, including the incredible achievement of climbing Snowdon together.

The benefits of these experiences—social, emotional and personal—are profound. The joy, pride and sense of accomplishment they bring are things we witness as staff and cherish deeply. They also wouldn't happen without the tireless commitment, organisation and generosity of our staff team, who give up their own time, energy and sleep to make sure these memories are made. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to them all.

Our commitment to high standards in learning has continued alongside these wider experiences. We were delighted with the outcomes our pupils achieved this year. As shared in the recent letter from our Chair of Governors, we saw incredibly strong performance again in the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check, KS1 SATs, and Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check. Our KS2 SATs results again show children made such strong progress from their starting points, with Reading, Writing and Maths outcomes reflecting the hard work and dedication of both pupils and staff. While we are rightly proud of these academic results that sit well above the National average, I am more proud of the way in which children carry themselves—with kindness (the new superpower!), curiosity and such growing confidence.

To our staff, thank you. Your commitment, passion and professionalism shine through daily. The care you show to every child, and to each other, is the reason our school continues to be such a warm and inspiring place to learn. This year has not been without its challenges, and I am grateful for the resilience and humour that you bring, whatever the weather!



To our families, thank you for your ongoing support. Whether you've helped at events, cheered from the sidelines, attended performances, joined us for celebration assemblies or simply shared a kind word at the gate, your involvement enriches our community and means a great deal.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated Governing Body, who continue to offer both challenge and unwavering support. Their commitment to the vision and values of our school ensures that we remain ambitious for all our children, and their time, care and guidance play a vital role in helping Gulval flourish.

And of course, to our wonderful pupils—you are what makes Gulval so special. You've worked hard, played joyfully, and shown kindness and curiosity in all you do. I hope you feel proud of everything you've achieved this year.

Please do know that your kind words have a profound impact on my team and I. In an unpredictable, turbulent world it has never been more important to stay true to our values of kindness, respect, perseverance, adventure and responsibility, all with a deep commitment to each other's wellbeing. I believe we must intentionally protect and uphold these values, ensuring that our school remains a place where children feel safe, inspired, and supported. At times this means recognising that mistakes will happen, that not everything will always go to plan, and that our response in these moments matters more than the mistakes themselves.

As a Headteacher, a parent, and a foster carer, I understand that life is unpredictable but I also know that the most powerful lessons come from how we handle setbacks, whether through patience, empathy, kindness, reflection, or a willingness to improve and adapt, how we respond in these moments define our character. Perhaps I am naive in believing we can turn back time a little but I will always try. I want and will always strive to protect what we have built together for our children, you our families and the most incredible staff team, we all deserve the very best. I want us to be different, to buck those national and global trends that threaten our values, to remain a safe, happy and exciting community and above all else, a place where my team are able to go above and beyond for your children knowing they are supported.

As we head into the summer holidays, I hope every one of you gets the chance to rest, recharge and enjoy time with friends and family. When we return on Tuesday 2nd September, we'll do so with fresh ideas, new adventures planned, and the same commitment to offering every child the very best experiences we can.

It's brought me great joy today, seeing the gifts from you being carried by my team, thank you. There is much to look forward to in the year ahead—and we can't wait to see where it takes us.

With warmest thanks and best wishes for a wonderful summer.



Mr P Baker
Headteacher

