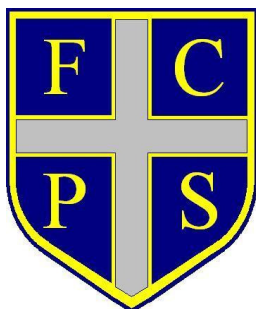


Issue 80

July 2010



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Mr K Doran, Headteacher

Fellside Matters

I have mixed feelings as I approach the last of 35 years and 186 days (according to my pension statement) of my teaching career. One thing I'm sure of is that the last 8 years as headteacher here have been the happiest and most rewarding of my career - hence the mixed feelings.

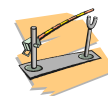
During that recent successful grandparents' afternoon I was asked "Kevin, why are you leaving, the school's fantastic?" That is exactly why I'm leaving now, aware that if I hang around (though I don't actually do any 'hanging around') for a while longer I may end up with "the school's not what it was, he should've gone a couple of years ago". Or words to that effect.

I quote from my letter to parents on my first day here - 3rd September 2002 - "You can be sure that it is my aim, working with everyone involved with the school, to take it forward, building on its past success and ensuring we provide the best possible learning conditions for your children in the future." Eight years on, working together we have, I hope for the most part, achieved that aim.

I thank not just parents but wider families and the Whickham community for your support over these last eight years.

New safety Measures

Access to our school car park is strictly for staff, disabled badge holders and visitors. Please do not park in the entrance area outside the school gates. And under no circumstances should anyone try to walk under the barrier.



Recent Events -

Grandparents' Afternoon

A hugely successful, enjoyable afternoon for all. It was in danger of being a victim of its own popularity with around 300 grandparents in school on a warm summer's afternoon. Lots of positive feedback from all generations.



We were of course sensitive to the obvious fact that some children actually have no living grandparents and we are aware of recent bereavements. It was a measure of our grandparents and our children that all children in school became involved in this event, irrespective of 4, 3 or even no grandparents attending.

In recent weeks, at various occasions, I've been touched and humbled at the wonderful comments and compliments I've received. The Doran's wine rack is already pretty full, I'm cycling in the very best attire, sporting a gleaming new watch and dozens of thoughtful cards adorn every surface of the house.

Thank you so much.

Eight years.... That's eighty newsletters, hundreds of children through the school (all of them wonderful), about 1200 times up Duckpool Lane on my bike with around 18000 miles cycled to and from Whickham. - Time to do something different - Land's End to John O'Groats!

It's been rewarding, hard work, challenging, fun but above all an absolute privilege. I leave this school in good shape and in good hands for a thriving future.

Best wishes



Recent Events..



BBQ

A massive turn out on a dry, cool night. Our dads' band gets better every year and we were also treated to the singing of Lee Lamb better known here for his karate skills. Another £111 was collected for MacMillan Cancer Care on the night. Thank you.

Sports Day

A decision to go ahead taken as late as possible. Lucky? I'll say! The rain hammered down within minutes of the end.



Year Six Leavers

130 family members watched the Year Six leaver's performance last week. Tonight they spend their hard earned £1175 on a party including limo transport at Blaydon Rugby Club.

Yet another group of Year Six children who've demonstrated achievements in sport, art and social skills in addition to superb academic performance.

They leave with our confidence and best wishes for a bright future.

Charity Appeals

Thank you for over £1100 donated to MacMillan for my forthcoming bike ride much of which has been given at www.justgiving.com/Kevin-Doran. This page remains open for some months.

Sarah Reid (end of Year 2) and Ewan aged 4 are taking part in the Mini Great North Run on 18th September to raise money for Leukaemia Research. Important to the Reid family as cousin Sophie (also 4) was diagnosed with Leukaemia last year. If you would like to sponsor them visit www.justgiving.com/sarahandewanreid.

Friday 23rd July

A normal uniform day for all children. Children may bring a toy or game into school. Nothing big, expensive or electrical.

Congratulations and Best wishes

To Mr Ellerbrook who leaves tomorrow to a promoted post at The Sele First School in Hexham. We thank Karl for all he's contributed here and always the perfect gentleman.

To Miss Moore who at the end of next week marries Dr Jack Lamb and returns to school as Mrs Sally Lamb. Many congratulations and best wishes to Sally and Jack for a long happy life together.

To Jordan Atkinson in Year 3 who has been accepted to Sunderland AFC Academy.



Training Day

Monday 6th September is a training day for staff. Children in year groups one to six return on Tuesday 7th September. Nursery and Reception parents are aware of their induction arrangements.

Diary of Planned Events to September

Friday 23rd July

End of Summer Term (Mr Doran's last day!)

Monday 6th September

Training Day

Tuesday 7th September

Pupils return to school following Summer Holiday

