



Cuddington Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs S Mills

'The way we have come' – my final newsletter to you

To our amazing Cuddington Families,

'The Way We Have Come' was written by my first Head Teacher as the title to her final report to Governors and Parents when I was a newly qualified teacher – way back in 1998. Mrs Thorley was once the Head Teacher at Sandiway Primary and her leadership and philosophy weaved through into my own educational philosophy and subsequent leadership vision.

Almost 10 years ago, when applying for the Cuddington Headship, the fundamental principles of 'Respect, Collaborate, Aspire,' pulled me to this community as they are also 3 principles which I continue to hold dear. **Respect**; through kindness, **Collaborate**; through developing socially and emotionally to work alongside and with others, **Aspire**; through the belief that you can be the best that you can be and can always 'do better.' Each assembly, sporting event, stage performance, curriculum change and PTA event all come back to these 3 principles. Each one supported by our families; each one lived and breathed in school and in our community.

Leading and managing a school is a complicated business; each child, each parent, each staff member and each governor all working side by side to achieve the best possible outcomes for children. We don't always get it right, but of one thing I am certain – we all try our best; our absolute best

I have been fortunate over the years to have had the pleasure of working with staff who have been thoroughly professional, flexible, committed, talented and above all dedicated to the children they serve – it is now a privilege to thank all my staff for the 'way they have come' with me. It has been quite a journey with many bumps on the way. I have to mention 'the COVID years' – I am still perplexed with the outcomes of school closures. The worry of this sat heavily on my shoulders; worry for all of you, your children and my staff. All that said, the strength of our team ensured we got through this together and as a parent community I will never forget your support for us.

To our Cuddington governors, past and present who have guided me over the years; thank you for all those professional conversations, challenges around decisions made and the significant number of voluntary hours you have worked to ensure all statutory (and non-statutory) duties are carried out.

To Create Learning Trust's team of executive professionals; thank you for sharing my passion to ensure positive outcomes for all children both academic and non-academic; thank you for trusting me with the leadership of one of your schools – our core values of Collaborate and Aspire very much part of this work.

How wonderful have our PTA committee been?! I have had the pleasure of working with several committees over the years. Our children have benefitted enormously from everything purchased. There is no flexibility in school budgets; the work of our PTA can only be highly valued. £8000 has been raised so far since September alone!

I should also like to give grateful recognition to all those who volunteer to come into classrooms on a regular basis, those who give up time to transport to sporting events and those who support on school

trips. Without our volunteers, very few of these things could take place and our curriculum would be poorer for it.

I cannot possibly list all that we have achieved together year on year; children, families, teachers and support staff have all spent time with us as part of their own successful educational journeys.

We have now come to the end of our journey together – how exciting at the prospect of starting a new journey with a new leader. Mrs Hacking is a lucky Head Teacher to have found Cuddington and all that is great about our school. Of course, there will be room for improvement and development – that is the changing and growing nature of education and an integral part of its excitement.

Be kind to yourselves and to each other and be kind to your new leader – Mrs Hacking will be an excellent leader for Cuddington, so please allow her to see what I see and to feel what I feel about Cuddington's community.

With love for a happy and successful future.

Sue Mills

Head Teacher