

At Dr Walker's School we develop **Respect** and **Responsibility**.

Build **Perseverance** and **Creativity**.

Combine Christian values with **Courage** and **Compassion** for us to become successful British Citizens.



**An Exceptional
Place to Flourish**

17th July 2020

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'a culture that is focused on pupils' well-being as well as their academic achievement' Ofsted June 2019

www.fyfielddrwalkersprimary.essex.sch.uk

This is the final newsletter of the school year. Under the circumstances, the return to school has had many positives for us, the children have been so happy to return to school and learning - it has been a pleasure to see.

Dear Families - an open letter from Miss Willis

It is with mixed feelings I write this final newsletter, I am excited to be starting a new chapter in my own personal career but incredibly sad to be saying goodbye to an amazing community of children, staff and families. When I came to Dr Walker's, you had experienced an unsettled time in leadership, although not anyone's fault it was unsettling for everyone. I came fully aware of this and wanted to ensure that we worked together to create a stable, secure and purposeful environment for everyone. When I look at the school community now, the sense of togetherness is wonderful and my hashtag #togetherwecan shines through from everyone.

I want to express my gratitude for the support I have received from the families at Dr Walker's. Not all of my views and ideas are conventional but you have always listened and supported me in all our ventures together. I openly admit to crying after the Ofsted in June 2019 as the grading was what the school deserved and it reflected the hard work of everyone. The staff team at Dr Walker's are incredible and I don't say that lightly - they really are. They go above and beyond the call of duty all of the time and work incredibly hard to ensure the school is successful. My ethos has always been, begin the day with children who feel happy, secure and content and the learning will follow, I am lucky to have worked with a team who have supported this ethos wholeheartedly.

The Ofsted report was full of positives but I love the paragraph: 'Leaders have created a culture that is focused on pupils' well-being as well as their academic achievement. There is a strong sense of nurture and inclusion' This to me is what school life is all about and recognising that we put nurture first was an emotional

and proud moment. The school has made incredible progress in so many areas and it truly is now an Exceptional place to flourish.

I know that Mr Bateman will be a great source of support during the Autumn term and when a new Headteacher is appointed for the Spring term, the school will continue to grow and flourish. It has been a pleasure to be part of the school's journey and more importantly the children's journeys. They are all wonderful, individual people with incredible spark and enthusiasm. I will miss them incredibly.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support. Thank you for noticing when I colour my hair, thank you for turning up to the fun run, thank you for putting up with my competitive side at sports events, thank you for buying another raffle ticket...just thank you. None of this is possible without the support of the families of a school - for your support I am truly grateful.

I wish you all the best for the future and my thoughts will always wander back to Dr Walker's - as this little school with a very big heart will always hold a very special place in my memories. Thank you to all the family members, staff and children who have supported me and the school over the last 2 and half years - it has been truly wonderful.

Miss Willis



Year 6 leavers

It has been different for Year 6s this year and I know a little strange not to be able to what we normally do to send them on their way. However, where possible we have been creative and on the website - PARENTS - CLASSES there is a dedicated page for Year 6 with some special messages. This will go live today and some items will be added next week. The children will all be given a goody bag and an autograph book with some items in.

On Wednesday 22nd, YEAR 6 only may bring a mobile phone or device in to take photos to remember their time at Dr Walker's. They may also get shirts signed by their teachers/peers in their group if they wish.

WEDNESDAY 22ND - 12.15pm Year 6 families and current year 6 who have not returned are invited to a SD event in the car park. Year 6 will stay on the field and adults/children attending will line up on the yellow lines. This will be an opportunity for some words to be said to Year 6 to see them on their way; the annual awards to be presented and a chance to play some fun music as Year 6 leave the school.

I would ask that other parents do not arrive at the school before 1pm to collect in order to ensure there are no gatherings etc and everyone remains safe. I appreciate that this is a difficult time and we are so used to our

normal ceremonies etc, however it is vital that we remain vigilant and stay positive about what we can do in these circumstances.

Reports

This year's reports are in a different format based on the guidance from the Dfe, they will be emailed to parents and families on Monday. You can book a telephone appointment to discuss this further if you feel you need to in September by calling the office before Wednesday. We have a appointment calendar for some dates in September that are available to book for this purpose.

Dates for your diary:

- Wednesday 2nd September – INSET DAY
- Thursday 3rd September – Children return to school (Reception children have their own timetable)

