

Hawthorn Community Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and successful year at Hawthorn, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of our highlights and to thank you for your continued support.

We have had a fantastic year—full of exciting opportunities and memorable moments that have helped our children grow academically, socially and emotionally.

One of the biggest highlights has been launching our new Hawthorn **house system**. It was wonderful to work together as a school community to choose house names and create a calendar of house challenges. Our new awards system is now in place, with many children receiving bronze and silver awards throughout the spring and summer terms. We look forward to embedding this further next year—and hope to see children working towards gold and platinum awards! Thank you for your support in helping us establish this new Hawthorn tradition.

This year also saw the introduction of **Shakespeare into Hawthorn!** Our Year 6 pupils worked with Silhouette Youth Theatre to perform scenes from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We were so impressed by how they engaged with the language and portrayed such complex characters. It was a memorable experience—and one we look forward to repeating for future Year 6 classes.

Our SATS results this year have been a highlight – particularly the individual progress made by some of our children. We are delighted to be above national in every area. This extends to other key results this year: in Phonics, 96% of our children passed the screening check which was well above national. Additionally, our EYFS outcomes and Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) outcomes also exceeded national. These achievements are a testament to the hard work of our children, the dedication of our staff, and the continued support of our families.

Alongside our strong educational outcomes, we continue to enrich our curriculum and improve our environment and resources, in order to provide experiences we hope children will remember for years to come. Some of these include:

- **Reception's Forest School partnership with St Peter's**
- **Seasonal celebrations** such as the Harvest Festival, Carols Around the Tree, May Day, and Midsummer dancing. Particular highlights included the KS2 Carol Concert, EYFS Nativity, and the KS1 Christingle.
- **Toast and Tales, Celebration Assemblies and Afternoon Teas**
- **Sporting events**, such as athletics, swimming, and a brilliant Sports Day hosted at St Peter's
- **Residential visits to the Frontier Centre (Y4) and Longtown (Y6)**
- Curriculum trips to Sywell and Irchester Country Parks, Wicksteed Park, and local farms
- Continued **improvements to our learning environment**, including full refurbishments of The Palm and staff toilets, with more classrooms being redecorated over the summer and extensive roofing work completed. A huge thank you to our site team for their work in keeping our school welcoming and safe.
- **Support from The Friends of Hawthorn:** From the Winter Fayre, Summer Fun Day and Break the Rules Day to the Mother's Day Stall and discos, their fundraising has been invaluable. This year alone, funding has helped us to purchase new furniture for our EYFS classrooms, ready for September and invest in new playground equipment for our children. Thank you to everyone for supporting these events along with our brilliant sponsored bounces and many cake sales!

Our staff team remains committed to continually improving the quality of education we provide. This year, we've welcomed colleagues from across the country into Hawthorn to share our work—particularly in our Beehive provision, where we've developed an environment tailored to support children with additional needs. We've also visited schools across Leicestershire to gather new ideas, and we look forward to continuing this work in the new academic year.

Today, we are preparing to say a fond farewell to **Miss Blakeley**, our Deputy Head, who leaves us after more than 11 years at Hawthorn. Her contribution to school life has been immense, and she will be hugely missed by staff, children and families alike. From her calm and caring presence to her musical talents and endless support for the more ambitious staff ideas—she has always put our children first. Our loss is another school's gain, and we wish her all the very best in her new role as Associate Headteacher.

Looking ahead to September, we are delighted that **Mrs Tinto** has been appointed as our new Deputy Headteacher and that **Mr Dix** will take on the role of UKS2 Phase Leader. We are confident these appointments will bring further strength and continuity to our team. We also welcome back **Mrs Brookes**, who will be job-sharing with **Ms Butler** in Redwoods.

And finally, today we say goodbye to our **wonderful Year 6 children**. They have taken part in their Leavers' Ceremony and enjoyed a fantastic leavers' party last night. Thank you to all the parents and staff who helped make it such a special occasion. By the time you receive this letter, they will have run through our school archway one last time, ready for their next adventure.

To our Year 6s: we are incredibly proud of you. Go to secondary school with confidence, kindness and the Hawthorn values held close. We will miss you—and we wish you all the happiness and success in the world.

On behalf of all the staff here at Hawthorn, thank you once again for your ongoing support and also for the many gifts and cards received, they are greatly appreciated. We wish all of our families a **restful, safe and sunny summer break**, and we look forward to welcoming our children back on **Wednesday 3rd September**.

With warmest wishes,

Emma Jacox

Headteacher