

RESPECT – RESPONSIBILITY – HOPE - COURAGE

Brabourne CE Primary School

Newsletter 1st April 2022

Farewell Mrs Mac



Today we bid farewell to Mrs Mac, who is retiring after 26 years of service at Brabourne CEP School. Mrs Mac has been a consistent face of the school, since she started back in 1996.

Back then, Mrs Mac's own children were pupils at Brabourne. Mr Jones, the Headteacher at the time, was looking for a new dinner lady, one lunchtime a week, and Mrs Mac applied for the position. Over time, the school required a one-to-one Teaching Assistant for two children who needed extra support. Mr Jones quickly persuaded Mrs Mac to apply for the role, which eventually led her to becoming a full-time TA in Neptune Class.

Before she had children, Mrs Mac had worked in banking and, when the Office Manager retired, Mrs Mac applied for the position, where she has worked for the last 17 years.

Over the years, Mrs Mac's role has extended beyond a secretarial role. She has been responsible for budgeting and managing the school's finances, reporting to the Governing Body and assisting the Headteacher in the financial management of the school.

When Mrs Mac started at Brabourne, the school playing field was situated where the hall, Venus, Mars and Neptune classes are currently. The school kitchen was the computer room and, aside from Jupiter Class, the other classes were housed in mobiles on the playground. The school has changed immensely over the last 26 years and Mrs Mac has been an important part of that success.

I know that many current parents will remember Mrs Mac from their own time at Brabourne, when they were pupils. I know many current pupils will be sad to see Mrs Mac go, but as one pupil from Year 1 said to me today over lunch, "Mrs Mac deserves a rest and I wish her the best retirement ever!"

I couldn't put it better myself. On a personal level, I thank Mrs Mac for everything she has done to support the school over the years. Certainly, in my own time working with her, she has been a dedicated and valued colleague, whose work ethic has been outstanding. I will always remember

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talking to her on Christmas Eve last year, when she was determined, even though it was Christmas, to get food voucher payments out to some of our vulnerable children. I think this, as just one example, perfectly illustrates her dedication and commitment to the school.

Happy retirement Mrs Mac! On behalf of the children, staff and governors, we wish you a restful and fun-filled retirement. We will miss you, but you know you're welcome back at any time.

Ukraine Appeal

This week, we took several of the House Captains to Vinnie's Diner, a charity in Ashford which provides hot food for the homeless and vulnerable. It was an opportunity for Jesse, Y6, to pass over the cheque of £600 he had raised for the diner. The children met the team running the diner and wrote the following report back:

As House Captains our main aim is to help others and, as part of that role, we decided to help Vinnie's Diner in Ashford, a charity set up to help the homeless and vulnerable. The charity is run by the Church and when we entered, we could see a board displaying the menu for the day. The charity is also dog friendly and they also feed dogs too. At the back of the building, there were store rooms of food. The whole team of volunteers were welcoming with smiling faces. Local businesses donate extra toys and food and all of the volunteers there work for free and make some lovely meals.

Some of the volunteers also have their own stories to tell. The chef told us of his own story, of when he had reached rock-bottom. He said that he eventually found faith and that allowed him to gain the support and strength he needed to get off the streets.

The diner was a very hopeful and joyful place and we were touched by the stories we heard and the dedication of the volunteers. We thought that it was a very worthwhile charity to support. Vinnie, who the diner is named after, was homeless in 1999. His own personal story was inspirational and taught us that, like our own school value, there is always hope.



In April, the team of Vinnie's Diner are travelling by convoy to Hungary, to deliver supplies for Ukrainian refugees. The House Captains would be grateful if, over the Easter holidays, families could gather some of the following to support this cause:

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Baby clothes, Toddler clothing, Nappies, Baby food, Baby Formula, Baby bottles and Toiletries, Tinned food, Long life food items, Cooking pots (new), Cooking utensils (new).

We will send a reminder on the first week back to bring these items into school, which will then be added to the convoy.

Happy Easter

We also welcome Mrs Parry to Brabourne as the new Office Manager. I am sure you will join me in warmly welcoming her to the school and in wishing her happiness in her role and as part of our team. It just leaves me to wish everyone in our school community, a very Happy Easter and quality time spent with family and friends.

With best wishes
Andrew Stapley
Headteacher

Dates for diary

Thurs 24 March	
Fri 1 Apr	Term 4 ends
Tues 19 April	School Inset Day – no children in school
Weds 20 Apr	Term 5 starts
Mon 2 May	Bank Holiday
9 May	KS2 SATS week
Fri 27 May	Term 5 ends
Weds 8 June	Term 6 starts
Thurs 21 July	Term 6 ends