

19 December 2019

Final Newsletter from Miss Fogg

Dear Parents,

There is just enough time for me to share a few final thoughts before the end of term:

25 years of CJS (almost)

CJS has been a huge part of me for more than half of my life. I can't bear the thought of leaving, but I know that it is the right thing for both the school and myself personally. I can't begin to count the numbers of pupils, parents, staff and governors I have worked with during that time. Even though I already knew that the Chellaston family is wonderful, having spent the last term as Interim Head of School, I can't begin to describe how amazing and supportive you have all been. Thank you.

The Team

The staff at CJS are brilliant at looking out for each and every one of your children. They take the time to talk to them and know them so well. Not only that, they have high expectations of all learners and support and challenge them to be the best that they can be.

They also take time out to care for one another and support each other through the good times and the bad. I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Price who has been an awesome Deputy Head over the last term and supported me enormously. I'm sure that she will continue to be the glue that holds it all together in the future. Although he's now moved on to pastures new, I have to pay testament to one of the greatest teachers I've ever had the privilege to meet: Mr James Emery. I learned so much from him and he was the one who gave me the skills and the courage to believe I could be a Headteacher one day.

Mr Simon Fisher, our Chair of Governors has been an absolute rock this term. Governors are volunteers and don't get much recognition, but a big thank you to all of our Governors here at CJS for their support over the years.

I'd also like to extend my thanks to the Executive Team at PEAK MAT. They have been massively supportive this term.

The Children

Of course, teaching is all about the children. We are fortunate enough to teach some of the most inspirational individuals in the country. Every week, I see how wonderful they are at dancing, music, art, sport. You name it, they can do it. You couldn't ask for a better bunch. I will miss them all enormously.

The staff organised a farewell party last week and I have to say that I shed a few tears of emotion. Each child had created a piece of bunting which depicted one of the musicals I had produced during my time at CJS. It was so touching and a beautiful keepsake from each of them.

Fundraising Thanks

I'm hoping that by the time you read this, I will have hit my £500 target – and maybe added a little bit more. CJS might not be a recognised charity, but I feel really passionate about giving something back to the children who will benefit from the fundraising – your children.

Thank you so, so much to those of you who have felt that they could offer a donation to this cause. Music, drama and performing arts are a huge part of CJS and something which I feel so passionate about every child having access to.

When I think of CJS, the most favourite part of my job has been watching children enjoying themselves making music and performing. It helps to develop other skills too: musicianship; confidence; friendship; performance skills; dancing; movement; a sense of belonging; pride.

If you haven't donated already, then it isn't too late. Just follow the link below to read my story and donate: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/mandy-fogg?utm_term=qadZgPABZ

I'm sure that future Bulletins will inform you of the journey of how the money has been spent.

A Fond Farewell

On Wednesday we held a Goodbye Assembly to say farewell to other members of staff in the school.

We say goodbye to our Office Manager, Mrs Marie Lewis and wish her all the very best in her new role at the Department for Education. Mrs Lewis hasn't been with us very long, but we thank her for all of her contributions to our school during that time, both as Office Manager and our Chair of Governors.

Mrs Parmjit Atwal leaves to take up her new role as Assistant Headteacher at a primary school in Derbyshire. We would like to thank Mrs Atwal for her leadership of mathematics during her time here at CJS and wish her all the very best as she moves onwards and upwards. We know you will be brilliant. Miss Eleanor Hanson will be taking up the reins in Duffield Class after Christmas and I'm sure you will give her a very warm welcome when she arrives.

I knew that I was in for a treat when I was stopped from going into various places in the school as staff set up for assembly. The children presented a "This is Your Life" for me spanning the last 25 years. There were photographs, stories and renditions of songs from shows I've produced at CJS: Hakuna Matata, The Bare Necessities and Spoonful of Sugar. Hot House's Wil Pearson wrote and performed a fabulous song with some of our ukulele group. There was even a video from Chellaston Academy of some former pupils saying goodbye.

Thank you to the staff for organising the wonderful gifts: a book of messages from all of the children; a bouquet of flowers; word art depicting CJS past shows (in my favourite colour, green); and a magnificent cake showing scenes from Mary Poppins, The Jungle Book, The Lion King, The Little Mermaid and Beauty and the Beast.

The whole assembly ended with a special Goodbye Song from Winnie the Pooh. As A.A. Milne said, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." Thank you 😊

Baby News – Congratulations!

Everyone at CJS would like to extend their very best wishes and congratulations to Mr Gadsby and his partner Laura who welcomed their first child on Saturday 14th December at 9.50am. Evelyn Martha Gadsby weighed 6lb 12. Take it from us – she's beautiful! Mr Gadsby will be taking his paternity leave just before and just after the Christmas break to enjoy time with his new family.

Y6 Celebrates V.E. Day



This half term, Y6 have been studying WWII through their theme “Pack Up Your Troubles”. They began with an action-packed Theme Day when they looked at the WWII timeline, sang wartime songs, were horrified by rationing and enjoyed code breaking.

Our theme has ended with a V.E. Day celebration party when they dressed up for the occasion as landgirls, evacuees, airmen, air raid wardens, soldiers and V.E. Day partygoers. They looked amazing in their costumes and performed their war time dances, sang their songs, took part in a quiz and listened to Winston Churchill’s end of war speech.

Thank you to parents for all your support, especially with costumes and homework throughout this theme - The Year 6 Team.

Community Christmas Concert

We were joined on Wednesday afternoon by our friends from Hot House Music and Chellaston Hot Shots. Along with Duffield and Glossop classes, they entertained us and put us in the festive spirit. Thank you to all our visitors who came to enjoy this wonderful music making.

To the future

Mr Alex Smythe, our new Headteacher, has made several visits during the last half term to meet with staff and get a really good feel of the school. I know that I am handing over the baton to a pair of very safe hands and he can’t wait to get started. I wish Mr Smythe a happy and successful time as he takes CJS into 2020 and beyond.

Mrs Price here...

I’m just interrupting Miss Fogg’s bulletin to say, on behalf of all of the staff and pupils at CJS, a huge **Thank You** for everything you have done for our school over the last 25 years. We wish you the best of luck at your new school and know that they are lucky to have such an enthusiastic, passionate and thoughtful Headteacher. We will all miss you (and your laugh!). Back to Miss Fogg...

Merry Christmas to All and to All, a Goodnight

Today we enjoyed a special Christmas themed assembly to bring our Autumn Term to a close. Pupils and staff joined together to watch some special video clips and sing some of our favourite songs and carols. We included “It was on a starry night” especially for Mrs Atwal, and Miss Fogg’s favourite “In the Bleak Midwinter”. Everyone wore something Christmassy, raising over £200 for our chosen charity: Young Minds.

As we close for the Christmas break, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and Happy New Year. Remember: it’s not what’s under the Christmas tree that counts, it’s who is around it. This time of year is not about the presents, but the presence of family, good friends and especially the children in our lives. Good luck and good health to you all.

Miss M Fogg
Head of School