

Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Year 6 Parents,

Regarding Y6 children leaving Woodlands

I write this letter with sadness, when this letter should be full of joy and excitement.

It came to my attention on Wednesday morning that a social media group had been set up involving a number of Year 6 parents in order to raise money for a special event for our Year 6 children at the end of the year. My initial response was wow – that is fantastic, that our parents are working hard to raise money to give the children the send-off that they deserve.

However, it with great sadness that I learn that the same social media group has now become a place in which to attack myself and Woodlands. Myself, the Governors and the staff have seen those messages by different parents and are saddened by individual responses.

Woodlands has worked tirelessly to support your children and your families, in normal circumstances, and through a very difficult pandemic. We have supported many of you on individual levels, in many different ways at many points over the years, including in the recent lockdown. For any parent to question our care and love for your children hurts the Woodland's team deeply.

Contrary to comments made, Woodlands cares a great deal about your children and would like nothing more than enabling our Y6 to have a very special celebration to mark the end of their Primary School journey.

Moving forward

For those parents that are new to Year 6, Woodlands would normally facilitate Y6 parents in fund raising for a special end of year event. The children are usually asked what they would like and quite often the response has been a Prom.

Woodland's would then facilitate a series of meetings for the Y6 parents to get together and plan fundraising events and plan the details of the main event.

Woodland's have very little involvement in the decision making process, apart from enabling parents to meet and be a channel of communication in order to ensure that all parents in Y6 can be involved.

The parents collectively make the decisions that are needed, the Woodlands team help when we can. Woodland's have previously been asked to bank and hold the money that has been raised, however, again parents can choose to hold the funds in a bank account.

These meetings would normally be face to face in school but unfortunately we are unable to do this at the present time. However, it is still possible for Woodland's to facilitate a TEAMS or ZOOM meeting to enable parents to meet and plan ahead.

As I am sure you can appreciate, this is an incredibly difficult and busy time at the moment as we currently focus on enabling every child to return to school safely and happily; that is certainly my prime concern.

However, when the children are back in school and happily settled we shall send out a letter to all our Y6 parents asking them how they would like to proceed.

I am positive that by working together, despite rules and restrictions presented by Covid, a very special send-off can be arranged for your wonderful children.

Yours sincerely

T G Newton

Headteacher