



Brighstone C.E Aided Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs R. Lennon

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Dear parents, guardians and carers,

What a year this has been! Firstly, I would like to thank all the staff at Brighstone for their unbelievable commitment to ensuring your children have had as least disruption as possible in the circumstances of Covid, under the steady and inspiring leadership of our new headteacher Rebecca Lennon. It has been an arduous journey for us all, but the staff have reacted with dedication, good humour and hard work, having to put new systems and risk assessments in place, often at the last minute. The Local Authority has acknowledged how they have been very impressed by our response.

Also, I would like to thank parents, guardians and carers for supporting the school and staff, and this can be seen in the happy smiley faces around school. Despite the restrictions, your children have still been able to access their learning, go on trips, commemorate Remembrance Day, take part in 'bubbled' worship and are now creating a 'bubbled' Nativity play, all of which is celebrated in the weekly Buzz. Most importantly is the work that Mrs Jones has been leading around wellbeing and mental health, as well as her thoughtful weekly guidance in the Buzz. The BSA have been just as busy as ever, producing cookery books, organising a pop-up shop, facilitating the children's presents to their families, and coordinating the amazing Round the Island Relay Race (which in itself raised over £1000), to name but a few. Thank you so much to Lucy Brodie, Katherine Harrison, Sarah Cartmell and the rest of the team.

Finally, I have been Chair of Governors for over four years and I now think it is time to hand over to someone new to take the school on to the next stage. Established parent governor, Janet Craig, will be the new Chair from January and I know the school will be in safe hands. It has been quite a journey, but I know being Chair was the most worthwhile thing I could ever have done when I see the happy, thriving children at work and play.

And now over to Mrs Craig ...

Thank you, Mrs Nicholson, for your kind introduction and for all your hard work over the last four years. I have a tough act to follow but I will do my best.

I am very much looking forward to getting to grips with this new role and supporting Brighstone School with providing our children with the very best education. I will be working closely with Mrs Lennon to help the teachers, LSAs and all the other staff who work so hard to create the safe, supportive and stimulating environment we want for our children. I know they have all been working incredibly hard and have stepped up to the challenge of this virus to enable learning to continue in so many different ways. Thank you to the whole Brighstone team for everything you do.

Parents, guardians and carers, I look forward to getting to know more of you. I want the best for our children, as I know you do, and that will be my goal in everything I do. You can have confidence in the whole Governing Board to work to achieve ever-improving outcomes for our children. They are a committed team!

We wish all of you a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Didi Nicholson

Janet Craig