



Dear All,

Wow, we have had a half term of ups, downs and everything in the middle! The autumn term is always the hardest as we return after a long summer break to a change in staff, classes, new/existing children and often in our case, new buildings! We have all felt the change and all felt the impacts that these have had through our children. However, our team at Lake Haven work tirelessly to ensure that we have the right balance of school, movement, exciting activities but more than anything else, we ensure that the wellbeing of all of the pupils and in my case, all of the adults too, is of the highest standards. I can't commend highly enough how hard all of the adults work in our school.

Lake Haven School started just three short years ago by three very tired teachers and parents fighting a system for school places that didn't exist. They were too noisy, too busy, too scary, too academic, too overwhelming, didn't make any sense and the list goes on...so instead of being defeated, we created a special place where children and adults could feel respect, nurture and a sense of belonging. This has enabled some of the most fragile learners to be able to attend school, access an education and not feel the fear that the idea of 'school' brings - although, we are under no illusion that fear is always bubbling under the surface. Our team is vigilant in ensuring our three simple rules are adhered to enable all of our learners to feel safe, calm and respected within a very predictable environment. We understand that behaviours are a communication tool for many of our children, but our school has the flexibility and provides endless amounts of autonomy of being able to work outside, have constant sensory input, the animals to aid regulation and a raft of caring adults that want the best for everyone. However, we are still those tired teachers and parents that are now three years in still trying to ensure that all of our students and adults have the best possible outcomes from our school, that they all feel the nurture, respect and the feeling of somewhere they can belong and call Lake Haven 'their' school! I would like to ask that everyone remembers this, as it is very easy to send off an angry email, post derogatory remarks on social media and make unfair demands when actually working together is a much easier

starting point. We are all human and all doing our very best - even when you may be feeling that it is going wrong for your child for numerous reasons, be rest assured we are feeling the heaviness of this too and will be working incredibly hard behind the scenes to make it better for your child.

Those that follow our social media posts, will be acutely aware of how busy we have been! We've seen our Kingfishers gain their red awards for Stable Management, we've all started on a pathway of Functional Skills for English and Maths which is working much better for our learners as we can all feel the links to the real world with our subject understanding and knowledge. We've studied Buddhism and Islam within RE for Our World units of work, the new life skills curriculum has been enjoyed from first aid, gardening, cooking and preparing a meal and internet safety. This is all intertwined and underpinned by the National Curriculum within a universal offering of sensory integration, rich speech and language opportunities, movement and sensory interventions and plenty of Tiny's time, Forest School, crochet, Scoobie making, goat feeding and chicken cuddling in between!

Our bus has given us much more freedom to visit the shops, local park and our visits to the local equestrian centre. All the children had a trip out to the supermarket to select and purchase their own pumpkin and it was delightful to see their carved and painted creations - we have some very skilled Pumpkin carvers!

Although it seems like a long half term, we are only just getting started and as always, in true Lake Haven style, we will continue to work hard to support your child, meet their needs and provide that special place for everyone to learn.

As we close for half term, we wish you a restful break, some quality family time and I will look forward to seeing you all, feeling refreshed after the holiday and ready to go again! Next stop, Christmas!

Have fun everyone,

Love Mrs T