



The Hayfield Herald

Farewell Hayfield Cross

It seems very strange to be writing my last ever Hayfield Herald and for one last time to share the amazing things that have been happening in our school. I have added an extra personal message to this Hayfield Herald as a final farewell but this week is all about our amazing Year 6.

Our Year 6 are our first 'full cohort' to complete Hayfield Cross (last year only 4 of the Year 6 were here on the first day of Reception!). When the parents of our Y6 were shown around we were in our first term, thank you all for your faith in us and your support over the years! At that time there was less than 20 children in the school and we only used 2 classrooms. It has been very special watching these children grow through the school and see each and every one of them shine in their own ways. They went through the pandemic and although it meant they missed out on their Y4 residential to York, one of my favourite memories of Hayfield Cross was joining them on their Y6 PGL residential. They are the epitome of Hayfield Cross' values and ethos and I could not be prouder of all of them.

This week we have had their awesome Year 6 Show, which, with 60 children, is the biggest we have ever done and it was absolutely breathtaking. Their singing and acting was superb and those doing solos were out of this world, along with the backstage crew who made it all happen behind the scenes. Today we are looking forward to their leavers assembly which I am sure will be a special, emotional and amazing event for them to celebrate their primary school careers at the best school in the world. My wish for Year 6 and all of the children at Hayfield Cross is to be happy, be brave and to keep joy, integrity and fellowship in your hearts wherever you go – good luck Year 6! Huge thanks to Miss Johnstone, Miss Ford, Mrs Logue and Miss Kirk, the Year 6 team, for making their ending so special.


Last week we had our final celebration assembly of the year and my last time leading it. This year our Year 6 have been in charge of the special claps and done an amazing job. Over the last half term they have chosen to do 'retro claps' revisiting their favourite special claps from the past which has been lovely. This week we obviously ended with the Team Orange Clap!

Last Friday we had our Summer Fayre led by the amazing TOPs team. It was absolutely brilliant and so well attended, thank you to you all who came. Outside it was torrential rain but we had put in place a contingency plan to have it inside instead and it worked perfectly. We had performances from our gymnasts and choir, a parent formed rock band, loads of stalls and food, a silent disco in the Diner, petting animals in the Hub and rain soaked bouncy castles and a train outside. Thank you to Bernadette and the team for such a well organised and successful event. Special mention to Bronte and Liv; Bronte sold some of her teddies to raise money for animals in need and raised £100 donating half to school and half to an animal charity. Liv has been enterprising creating amazing bracelets. She also donated £50 to school from the money she made selling her bracelets. Thank you girls!

Last week we took this year's Hayfield Legends on their special treat to Wicksteed Park. We walked down together and had a fantastic morning playing on the equipment and having a picnic lunch together. The park also arranged for us to have a special go on the carousel, so all of the Legends went on. What a wonderful way to celebrate their achievements this year.

On Monday we had the final Rock Steady concert of the year to the parents. The children were so confident and were real rock stars as they took to the stage to perform their songs playing guitars, drums, keyboards, bass and singing – all of them were fabulous!

Joy - Integrity - Fellowship



Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened.- Dr. Seuss

Farewell message from Mr Charteris

My Hayfield Cross journey started on the 8th December 2014 when I was appointed as the founding Headteacher of the new Kettering East CEVA Primary School (as it was then known). There was no school to visit and all I had were the plans and artist impressions of what the school would look like (from the outside). Although my official start date was the 1st April 2015 I had to start work immediately as there was so much that had to be done before then.

The first priorities were naming the school and choosing the uniform as these had to be ordered well in advance. I had chosen the name Hayfield after researching historical maps and finding Hayfield Lodge farm near us (which will be lost to the development in the future). Bishop John then suggested 'Cross' to show our Christian foundation and so around March 2015 Hayfield Cross Church of England School was officially born. I designed the logo and chose the uniform - by accident, I was actually looking for an orange PE kit but liked the colour so much and the rest is history! My first visit to the building was on December 27th 2014 when, as we weren't allowed to visit yet, I snuck in and had a look around (which the children find very funny!) From that first visit I worked out that there has not been a time of more than 12 days that I haven't been at the school so it really has been my second home for the last 8 and half years. I have loved seeing it grow, from a steel frame to seeing the building appear, opening in the September 2015 and then each year more children joining and thriving until today when we are full!

I have created two photo books that will remain with the school. The first is the history of the school being built and our first year of opening. This was also a very challenging time as NCC admissions had not put us as a Reception intake option so on allocation day in April we had no children. We opened with just 10 children and rapidly grew in numbers and reputation. We were supposed to open with 90 children with houses being built but that also didn't happen. Many of you will still remember the 5 years of 'temporary measures' where we came down a dirt track and ran off generators and gas tanks – we didn't even have a phoneline! Despite all of our early challenges I never wavered in my determination to build the best school based on amazing learning and a unique learning environment for the children. The children were at the heart of every decision we made then and remain so to this day... there's just a lot more of them!

The second photobook documents my whole time as Headteacher at Hayfield Cross, and I hope will become a tradition in the future to document the life of the school. I will also be keeping a copy of the book which I will treasure forever. It has been the most incredible journey and I feel truly blessed to have been at Hayfield Cross. The children are amazing, and I can honestly say it is the best school I have ever worked at or been in. The staff are so dedicated to the children and this shines through in all the things the children do. I would like to give a special mention to Mr Hobbs, Mrs Fraser and Miss Priestley who have been my 'work family' since before the school opened and we have weathered every storm together. Mr Hobbs of course being the genius behind making our learning environment the unique and amazing place it is. The whole staff at Hayfield Cross are very special and we are lucky to have them here as Team Orange. I would also like to thank the Governing Board who have overseen the school since the very beginning and especially Lindsey Atkins and Derek Price, our Chair of Governors who have been simply brilliant in their support, challenge and guidance.

Finally, to all of you, our Hayfield Cross Families. Being a Headteacher is a privilege, and it has been an absolute honour to serve our community and have you trust in us to give your children the very best start in their education. I have been overwhelmed with your kind messages and gifts this week and I am so thankful for the time we have shared. For me, all my memories and joy from being the first Headteacher of Hayfield Cross will always be seeing the children thriving in our school and watching them achieve and succeed. They were at the centre of all the plans I made before we opened and are still at the centre of all I do today. Thank you for trusting me as your Headteacher, I wish you all the very best for the future.

Craig Charteris Head Teacher

*Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid.
The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go³ (Joshua 1:9)*