

Octavo September 2021

#### News from Stower Provost Primary School

After another somewhat turbulent year for the world, it was wonderful to finish the school year with some sense of normality, with the children engaging in more of the usual end of term activities.

We were able to hold our final Celebration Assembly, with Sports Day, Leavers' Assembly and our end of term play with parents invited to attend. The fact that we planned to hold all of these events outside was helped by the wonderful weather at the time, and there was something particularly special about holding a Leavers' Assembly under the big willow tree, and putting on the play, Troy Story, with our wonderful view of Dorset in the background. Several parents enjoyed this so much they asked if we would carry on holding our events outside...

Our Leavers did us proud in their assembly, sharing some hilarious and poignant memories, and were rewarded with the now traditional End-of-Primary-School swim in the school pool (at the time operating at 31°C!), followed by a delicious cream tea. The pool was a fantastic resource for us again in the Summer Term with the children showing amazing progress in their swimming skills. For the first time in many years, a brilliant band of parents has kept an eye on the pool throughout the holiday, topping up the chlorine and regularly cleaning it, so that we should be able to use it again at the beginning of the Autumn Term. It will be great for the children to have a few extra weeks' swimming practice at this point in the school year and will especially help those who rarely have the chance to swim anywhere else.

When the children return at the beginning of September, we will be gradually easing back into our normal (old-style) routines, with all the children having lunches together, and whole school assemblies taking place. We will continue to have some extra safety measures in place (rigorous handwashing is now a lifelong part of school habits...) and will be limiting the number of additional adults coming into school. However, I am very pleased to be able to welcome adults back into school to hear the children read and to help out in the class or with clubs. If you would like to come into school, either as a returning helper or as someone new, we would love to hear from you – please contact the school office to let us know.

With best wishes for a healthy, happy and settled academic year.

James Stanford