

Friday 17th July 2026

Dear Families,

As another academic year draws to a close, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly successful and memorable year for our Dunalley community.

When I look back over the past year, I do so with an overwhelming sense of pride and gratitude. Every day, I have had the privilege of seeing children embrace new challenges, discover new talents, build friendships and grow in confidence. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, on stage, in the playground or on educational visits, our children have demonstrated the qualities that make Dunalley such a wonderful place to learn and achieve together.

Our overarching vision is simple: *Learning and achieving together*. It sits at the heart of everything we do and is brought to life each day through our shared values. Throughout the year, our children have shown kindness and compassion, celebrated one another's successes, persevered when learning has been challenging and demonstrated what it means to be ready, respectful and safe.

I believe one of Dunalley's greatest strengths is the breadth of opportunities on offer. This year has been no exception. From Nursery's first educational visit and Year 4's memorable residential at Croft Farm to Year 6's unforgettable experience at Call of the Wild, children have embraced opportunities that have taken learning far beyond the classroom. Across every year group, educational visits have inspired curiosity, brought learning to life, developed independence and resilience, and created memories that will stay with children long after they leave Dunalley.

Creativity has flourished throughout the year. Our annual Literature Festival inspired children to immerse themselves in books through visiting authors, a book swap and a host of other exciting opportunities. The Musical Celebration showcased the remarkable talents of our young musicians, while our Art Exhibition celebrated the creativity of children across Dunalley and once again brought our community together in support of a local charity.

Sport has continued to play an important role in school life. It has been wonderful to see so many children representing Dunalley in a wide range of sporting competitions and festivals throughout the year, demonstrating determination, teamwork and excellent sportsmanship. Whether competing against other schools or taking part in our own Sports Days, our children have shown that success is measured not only by results, but by effort, resilience and encouraging one another to do their very best.



Achieving the Platinum OPAL Award was a tremendous achievement and recognised our commitment to providing high-quality play opportunities for every child. As a result, lunchtimes are filled with creativity, collaboration, adventure and joyful learning.

Alongside these enriching experiences, we have continued to enhance the education we provide every day. This year we introduced our new Essential Letters and Sounds phonics programme, strengthened our Early Years provision, enhanced the way we teach writing across the school and extended opportunities for speaking, listening and communication throughout the curriculum. These initiatives are united by a shared ambition: to ensure every child secures the strong foundations they need to flourish, both now and in the years ahead.

I am equally delighted that our commitment to community wellbeing has been recognised through achieving the Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning Mental Health Champions Award. This reflects something that visitors frequently comment upon when they come to Dunalley: the warmth of our relationships, the kindness shown by our children and staff and the genuine sense that everyone is cared for, valued and belongs.

None of these achievements happen by chance. They are only possible because of the remarkable people who make up our school community.

To our incredible staff, thank you. Your professionalism, care, creativity and unwavering commitment to our children are extraordinary. Every member of the team goes above and beyond each day to ensure that every child feels safe, valued and inspired to learn, achieve and succeed.

I would also like to thank those colleagues who generously give up their own time to lead the many clubs and enrichment opportunities that take place before school, after school and during lunchtimes. From sport and music to creative, academic and special interest clubs, these opportunities enable children to discover new passions, develop their talents and enjoy experiences that extend far beyond the classroom. Your generosity and enthusiasm enrich school life immeasurably and are hugely appreciated by the children and families who benefit from them.

To our PTFA, thank you for the enormous amount of time, energy and enthusiasm you invest in organising events, raising funds and bringing our community together. Your support continues to make a real difference to the experiences we can offer our children.

To our wonderful volunteers, thank you for giving your time so generously. Whether supporting reading, preparing resources, accompanying educational visits, helping at events or, most recently, preparing resources for the introduction of our new phonics programme, your contribution enriches school life in countless ways. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a supportive community.

To our governors, thank you for your continued support and commitment to the school. Your strategic oversight and unwavering belief in our vision help ensure that we continue to provide the very best for every child.

To our Year 6 children and their families, thank you for everything you have contributed to Dunalley over the years. We are immensely proud of the young people you have become. As you move on to the next stage of your education, we wish you every success and happiness. We hope you leave with wonderful memories, lifelong friendships and the confidence to embrace the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

As is always the case at the end of an academic year, we also say goodbye to a number of valued colleagues. While we are naturally sad to see them leave, we are incredibly grateful for the contribution each has made to Dunalley and to the lives of the children they have supported. Whether they have been with us for many years or a much shorter time, each has played an important part in our school community. On behalf of us all, I would like to thank them for their dedication, care and commitment, and wish them every happiness and success in the next chapter of their careers and lives. They leave with our heartfelt thanks and very best wishes.

Finally, to you - our families - thank you. Thank you for choosing our school, for the trust you place in us each day, for supporting your children's learning and for working in partnership with us. The partnership between home and school is invaluable, and we are incredibly grateful for your encouragement, kindness and support.

As we look towards September, we are excited about everything that lies ahead. We will continue to enhance our practice, always striving to provide the very best education and opportunities for every child.

For now, I hope the summer holidays provide every family with an opportunity to slow down, spend precious time together, make lasting memories and enjoy a well-earned rest.

Thank you once again for helping to make Dunalley such a special community. It is a genuine privilege to serve this wonderful school and to work alongside such fantastic children, families, staff, governors and volunteers.

On behalf of everyone at Dunalley Primary School, I wish you a safe, happy and restful summer. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning and achieving together.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Alison Godfrey'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alison Godfrey
Headteacher