

Headteachers of Braywood School 1857-2025

1857 School built and opens 22nd March 1858

Contents

page			
1			Foreword
2			Contents
3	01	1858-1861	The Beginning
6	02	1861-1872	Mrs Jane Parker
7	03	1872-1874	Mr Charles Price
	04	1874-1874	Mr Burrows
	05	1875-1875	Mr G D Freeman
8	06	1875-1908	Mr William Henry Malcolm
12	07	1908-1908	Mr McIntosh
	08	1908-1920	Mr William Nicholls
15	09	1920-1922	Mr Robert Williams
	10	1922-1922	Mr B Cooper
16	11	1922-1923	Mr Reginald George Bennett
	12	1923-1925	Mr Sidney Francis Williams
18	13	1926-1927	Mr G Hodkin
19	14	1927-1932	Mr Thomas Reginald Kent
21	15	1932- 1932	Mrs F G Marshallsay
	16	1932-1968	Mr Cecil F L Snow
25	17	1968-1971	Mr Ronald T Haynes
27	18	1972-1972	Mr H Wood
	19	1972-1975	Mr Kenneth A Winship
29	20	1976-1978	Mr Neil Hawkes
34	21	1978-1987	Mrs Hazel Cantrill
38	22	1987-1989	Mrs Lesley Reed
41	23	1989-1996	Mrs Valerie Edington
57	24	1996-2006	Mrs Christina Hibbins
72	25	2006-2025	Mrs Susan Calvert
90			Comments on Mrs Calvert by the Children
			Comments on Mrs Calvert by the Staff
93			Comments on Mrs Calvert by the Governors
94			List of Teachers who have worked with Mrs Calvert
95			Author's comments
97-115			Photos



Braywood School was built in 1857 as a dual purpose building which could serve as a church on Sundays and educate up to one hundred and forty children (aged 4 to 11) under the School Sites Act 1851. At this time, most of the poorer residents of Bray, Braywood and Oakley Green and their children, could neither read nor write and it was decided that something needed to be done to improve the situation.



Revd. James Edward Austen Leigh 1828



Revd. Leigh in later life

It was at first the humble project of Revd. James Edward Austen Leigh, Vicar of Bray and nephew of the author, Jane Austen, that grew into a much more ambitious project. Revd. Austen Leigh had a considerable knowledge and love of church architecture and as there were no churches along the A4 corridor between Reading and Maidenhead he felt that parishioners should have easy access to a local church (he had churches/chapels of Ease built at Knowl Hill, Littlewick Green, Touchen End as well as Braywood). He had intended just building a school

Mr Bennett (certified teacher) took up the post as Headmaster on the 4th September 1922 with his wife, an uncertified teacher. Again this was a short appointment and by August 1923 Mr Bennet had been appointed Headmaster of Copthorne Church of England School to start on 2nd September 1923.

Mr Williams was a certified teacher who took up his post on 3rd September 1923. In the school log book there appears to be the introduction of Scouts, Cubs and Brownies for the children, but by 23rd December 1925 he resigns to take up an appointment as Headteacher of Westcote Church Of England School, Dorking on 11th January 1926. Mr Williams is presented with a mahogany clock as his leaving gift.

Time table has been altered, as on Ash Wednesday - Secular Instruction 9 a.m. - 11.15 a.m. - to enable children whose parents desire it to attend a Memorial Service, this being the occasion of Queen Alexandra's funeral.

Dec 23. Today (Wednesday) school closes after the afternoon session, for Christmas holiday.

This day also marks the termination of my duties here, as I leave to take up the appointment as head teacher of Westcote C.E. School, Dorking on Jan 11th next.

Mr William's Leaving record in the school log book

Dear Mr. Williams,

The Managers have read with very sincere appreciation, the summary prepared by yourself of the School year ended March 31st last. They have taken special note of the excellent attendance made by the scholars, of the fact that all those who have left during the year have entered employment, and that so much painstaking work is done by the Teachers out of school hours by means of Scouts, Girl Guides, Cubs and Brownies to foster the spirit of comradeship, and thus influence the life of the school for good.

The Managers are of opinion that the formation

Report of the school Managers



Some of Braywood Children 1924



Photo]

[T. H. Greville, Maidenhead

THE BRIDE & BRIDEGROOM, BEST MAN & BRIDESMAIDS.

Interesting Wedding at St. Peter's, Furze Platt.

THE BRIDEGROOM HEADMASTER OF BRAYWOOD CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS

AND SON OF ST. PETER'S ORGANIST.

BRIDE DAUGHTER OF MAPLEDURHAM PARENTS.

A congregation of well over a hundred, including the guests and friends of both families, attended at St. Peter's Church, Furze Platt, on Wednesday last to witness the nuptials which were celebrated by the Rev. B. A. Duke (vicar) - the Rev. C. E. M. Fry, R.D., Vicar of St. Luke's, Maidenhead, had hoped to assist at the service but was unable to be present - of Mr. C. F. F. Snow, only son of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Snow, "Ildersley," All Saints' avenue, Maidenhead, and Miss Phyllis Pragnell, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Pragnell, of Bottom Farm, Maple-durham, and of Reading. More than the usual amount of interest was attached to the ceremony from the fact that the bridegroom who is extremely popular in the district is the headmaster of the Church of England Schools, Braywood, while his father who is the organist of St. Peter's a post he has held for over 30 years and is held in high esteem in the parish and at St. Luke's, only recently retired from the East-street Church of England Schools where he had been assistant teacher for over 45 years. The bridegroom in his boyhood days attended Gordon-road Council Schools, and securing a scholarship passed on to the Maidenhead County Boys' School, and he completed his education at Winchester Training College. He is an A.P.S. and holds the honour of F.R.H.S. He was formerly head assistant at Bracknell Church of England Schools. The bride was also a member of the scholastic profession, and she was formerly assistant teacher at Bulbrook Church of England Schools, Bracknell. It was quite in keeping with the auspicious event that the

duties of "best man" carried through by Mr. F. M. Andrews, a former schoolfellow and close friend of the bridegroom, and at present first assistant at Didcot Council Senior School. Miss May Snow (sister of the bridegroom) and Miss Fay Yonge were the adult bridesmaids, and the Misses Joan and Barbara Liddiard (nieces of the bride) were the juvenile attendants.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore ivory satin beaute, also a full-length hand-embroidered veil with wreath of orange blossom, and she carried a sheaf of Madonna lilies, the gift of the bridegroom. Miss May Snow, one of the bridesmaids, wore green figured silk ninon with coater, also a gold straw picture hat with floral wreath, and she carried a sheaf of Lady Hillingdon roses; the nieces of the bride were attired in ankle length apple green satin with floral trimming and floral bead-dresses, and they each carried Victorian posies. The bridegroom's present to the bridesmaids was flower cluster brooches. The duties of organist were ably undertaken by Mr. C. Snow (cousin of the bride-groom and organist at Church Crookham, Hants), and before the service he rendered with much effect "Angelic voices" (E. Batiste), "Visione (J. Rheinberger) and "La Serenata" (C. Brags). while the register was being signed in the vestry "Bridal Chorus (Wagner), and afterwards Mendelssohn's Wedding March." He also led the singing of the hymns "Lead us, Heavenly Father," sung as a processional, the Vicar with the cross-bearer and choristers-the bridegroom is a member of the choir-meeting the bridal party at the west entrance; and "O perfect love," also the chanting of Psalm 67. In the first hymn, in one of the verses the descant by Masters Davis and Butterfield had a very pleasing effect, and the second verse of the subsequent hymn was sung unaccompanied.

Afterwards a reception was held at Furze Platt Memorial Hall and was attended by 70 guests. Toasts were proposed by the Vicar and Mr. F. M. Andrews, and Mr. and Mrs. Snow received the hearty congratulations of all present with the best expressions for their future married life. The Rev. A. J. Harris-Rivett (Vicar of All Saints, Braywood) made an appropriate speech. Later the happy couple left for their honeymoon which is being

spent at Llandudno. Their future residence will be at the School House, Braywood (Maidenhead). The bride's going-away drow was a green costume with hat to match.

Following the reception, all the guests adjourned to the residence of the bridegroom's father at "Ildersley," All Saints'-avenue, where they partook of tea, inspected the presents rived by the bride and bridegroom, and spent a short time afterwards in enjoyable social intercourse.

The presents received were as follows:-

Bride to bridegroom, gent's fitted wardrobe. Bridegroom to bride, hand-beaten pewter tea-set and tray.

Bride's parents, household linen.

Bridegroom's parents, hide dining room suite. Miss E Beare, cut-glass jug and tumblers. Mr. and Mrs. Grant, mahogany hand-painted tray. Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Yonge, canteen of cutlery and cheque. Mr. F. M. Andrews and Miss S. D. Jolly, tea set. Miss Fay and Master Geoff. Yonge, silver afternoon tea service.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Day, brass candlesticks Mr. and Mrs. W. Clarke, hine-skin rug. Miss May Soow, Aladdin lamp and shade. Miss B. Kinsley, cut glass salad bowl.

Miss B. Blumfield, set of hand-embroidered face-towels.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Ingram, case of butter dishes and knives.

Mr. L. C. Lewis, hand-beaten pewter coffee-pot. Staff and scholars, Bracknell C. School, oak dining-room clock.

Mr. and Miss Evans, afternoon tea knives. Clergy and Choir of St. Peter's, Furze Platt, pewter fruit bowl.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Rogers, 800-day bah! clock. Miss Edith Noyce, antique brass bellows. Mrs. E. E. Levens, sets of silk underwear. Miss M. Cox, cut glass sagar basin.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Waine and Mr. and Mrs. H. Waine, case of fish knives and forks, and case of tea spoons

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Kemp, cut glass jam pot. Miss P. Webb, silver cake basket.

Mr. Melhuish, clock.

Miss M. Derry, silver cruet.

Mr. M. Andrews, biscuit barrel.

Mrs. Darvill retires



AFTER 43 years as a teacher, 31 of them at Braywood School, Fifield, Mrs. Lilian Darvill (63) will put down her chalk for the last time at the end of term.

Mrs. Darvill, of Windsor Rd, was born at Inkpen near Newbury. She began her teaching career in the local school when she was 20.

After a few years there, she moved to Waltham St. Lawrence, teaching in the junior school for 12 years.

When she was 32, she moved to Braywood and has been there ever since.

Her years of service to the school were recognised on Wednesday when staff and pupils presented her with an Indian rug and a clock.

The school's managers presented her with a voucher for gardening implements.

Her hobbies are gardening, old time dancing and drama.



Splash. And these third and fourth-year pupils at Braywood School are first in their new pool.

School open day

HOLYPORT primary School held an open evening last week for parents to inspect the children's work, and to talk to teachers.

Final events of the summer term are the sports day on July 15, and the end-of-term service on July 22, to which parents of the senior pupils leaving for secondary school will be invited.

Chairman of the school managers and Vicar of Bray, the Rev. Sidney Doran, will attend to present each child leaving with a dictionary.

New pool in use

CHILDREN from Braywood C of E School - gasping for a swim in the hot weather - were able to christen their new pool for the first time last week.

Funds for the pool have been raised by the PTA, and recently about 60 children went on a sponsored walk in Windsor Great Park to get more money for a roof over the pool. Proceeds from this are estimated at about £270.

Infant classes have made a frieze depicting the walk, and it is now on display in the school canteen.

Another first at the school will be the sports day and fete on the

newly acquired sports field on Saturday next week.

Headmaster Mr. Neil Hawkes says they were be sideshows, games and produce stalls, as well as the sports events for his pupils.

Other end-of-term activities include a visit to London Zoo by 35 children from Class 1, and 31 children in Class 2 going to Bird World at Farnham.

Successful

ELEVEN pupils from Braywood C of E School recently took and passed their cycling proficiency tests.

Braywood Swimming Pool July 1976



Rev. Doran's leaving presentation at Braywood School 1978 just before the departure of Mr Hawkes

For he's a jolly good fellow!



HEADMASTER Neil Hawkes (above) was given a rousing farewell by the children and staff of Braywood School at last week's end of term celebrations, when they presented him with a workbench, a power drill and other useful presents.

Next term Neil, who lives in Wokingham, is taking over as headmaster

of Palmers School, Wokingham, a large primary school with about 350 pupils.

One of the youngest heads ever appointed. Neil joined Braywood in 1975 from St Michael's School, Sunninghill, where he was deputy head. master. Braywood's present deputy head. Mrs Hazel Cantrill, takes over as headmistress.

BRAY AND HOLYPORT

With a little gentle persuasion from their bikini-clad coxswain, Bray resident Jimmy Hemmings and crew completed their sponsored cross-channel row.

The crew set off from CapGris-Nez in

Head teacher finds law degree useful

The new head teacher of Braywood First School in Oakley Green is planning to introduce a home reading scheme, with a wide choice of children's literature for pupils.

Mrs. Valerie Edington (40) has been expanding the library with the help of the school's parents association since she took over as head in September.

The second part of a building programme, extending offices and cloakroom facilities is also due to begin at the school soon.

Before training as a teacher Mrs. Edington was a graduate in law at Nottingham University. She never expected to use her degree in teaching, but now, finds it very useful for interpreting new government legislation, such as the Education Reform Act.

Her first term, she explained, had been hard. With her staff she has been busy introducing the



Braywood School head Mrs. Valerie Edington.

National Curriculum and keeping careful records of individual children's progress. She thinks the school's 64 children, all aged between 5 and 9, are super.

Before coming to Braywood, Mrs. Edington taught at Holyport C. of E. Primary School, the Royal Free First School, Windsor, and was deputy head of a school in Surrey.

July 1989

School events at this time included visits from the school nurse and dentist, visit from a play equipment company, harvest hymns at Fifield nursing home, oil escape from tank in playground and visit from the fire brigade to hose down the playground, the environmental health inspector visits due to notification of hepatitis in school leading to an urgent report to Shire Hall to upgrade the outdoor toilets, guide dog visit, puppet show organised by Duffy the bakers of Windsor to celebrate their 150th anniversary, visit to Polka dot theatre in Wimbledon, storm damage to annex roof, PE shed, slates off school roof and tree down in the playground, visit to Emmets' farm and 1st course for headteacher on child abuse held at Windsor Hospital.

In early 1991 the school closes for a day due to snow, the school takes part in red nose day, mufti days, quiz night, French conversation, annual sponsored walk and the contractors arrive to start building the new toilet block.

Pupils befriend some delightful ducklings

CHILDREN at Braywood First School are making friends with some new arrivals. First their guinea pig produced four babies, and then seven ducklings hatched out.

"We had 18 eggs in the incubator, but it wasn't kept at the right temperature so we didn't really expect any to hatch," said the head, Mrs. Valerie Edington, "And we thought there would only be one baby guinea pig, so we are all delighted."

On Sunday, pupils, parents and staff enjoyed a picnic and sponsored walk around Virginia Water, a distance of five miles. To increase her sponsorship, Mrs. Edington did the circuit twice. The money will be used to help convert the school grounds into a teaching area for environmental studies. Parents have promised to spend £2,500 on the project.



Nine-year-old Braywood School pupils, Tiffany Green (left) and Katie Englis, make friends with newly-hatched ducklings.



Laura Rachley, aged eight, loves that downy softness.

May 1991



School says goodbye to two of the best



No more pencils, no more books: Left, school bursar Jenny Thorne is retiring, as is music teacher Jil Goode, right

AN air of sadness crept into this year's end of term celebrations as teachers and pupils at Braywood First School said goodbye to two long standing members of staff.

Music teacher Jill Goode, 60, and school bursar Jenny Thorne, 58, are both retiring after almost half-a-century of service between them.

Headteacher Christina Hibbins said on Tuesday: "It's not often we have staff leaving Braywood. It's going to be quite sad when they leave on Friday. Both will leave a huge gap next term. But they deserve to retire," she added.

Mrs Goode has taught thousands of pupils during her time at Braywood. What started as a week-long posting ended up lasting 29 years.

The part-time music teacher, who is a trained soprano, said "The thing I will remember most is doing the shows at the end of the summer term."

Her last and final musical production - Joseph - was performed in front of the whole school on Monday,

attracting the usual glowing reviews from parents, pupils and staff.

She is married to Robert, 61, with whom she lives in Pinkneys Road, Maidenhead

The couple have two children, Andrew, 27, who is teaching English in Taiwan, and daughter Zalah, 26, an accomplished flute player. The pair also have a holiday home in Normandy.

"I have enjoyed teaching very much," she said, "but I'm now hoping to spend more time in France, and I also hope to learn the flute, which I have always wanted to do."

One of the highlights of her teaching career, she says, is Braywood's school choir winning a top prize 12 times at the Slough Arts Festival, an event she performed at herself as a youngster 50 years ago.

Meanwhile, Mrs Thorne, who also leaves today (Friday), has spent 18 years at Braywood. She first joined the school as secretary, when her 24 year old son Eliot was a pupil there, before

taking on the role of bursar some ten years ago.

She said: "I will miss the staff, the children and the parents.

"But I won't miss the work," she laughed. "I will also miss the atmosphere and the school productions. "There's always something going on here."

Like Mrs Goode, Mrs Thorne, who is married to Mike, a British Airways' employee, said she hoped to spend more time at her holiday home in France, as well as on pet projects at her house in Fifield Road.

She also enjoys gardening and art, and plans to visit more galleries in future.

Paying tribute to the pair this week, Mrs Hibbins said "Both of them will be greatly missed. They have both contributed a lot to the school over the years - Jill through her music, which has really put the school on the map in terms of our musical productions. - and Jenny, who turned from secretary to financial wizard, taking care of our accounts and the school budget."

Spotlight **Braywood First School** Perfecting the science of inspiration



Happy: Contented children at play watched by head, Christina Hibbins, and inset Mrs Hibbins with some of the pupils

S00857

By Francis Batt

THERE must be plenty of ghosts smiling down on Braywood First School.

There has been a school on the premises in Oakley Green Road since 1857 although the original building was sold more than 20 years ago. The 80 pupils are now based in what was the old chapel.

Head teacher Christina Hibbins said: "It boasts a lovely old bell tower and I rang the bell for the first time since I have been here last week, when Di Fone left us after 28 years at the school."

Di was deputy head at Braywood and after her retirement came back as dinner lady. But this is not unusual for the school, which tends to inspire amazing affection and loyalty among its staff.

Mrs Hibbins herself started there as a class teacher, later working at Trevelyan Middle School as drama teacher and Eton Porny as deputy head before returning to Braywood as head six years ago.

She said: "I would describe us as a friendly family school, people always comment how cosy it is. But we have high expectations of our children and have just won a second achievement award from the Department of Education to prove it."

"We are often held up as an example of education. we have children with special needs including some who are autistic. But everyone gets the attention they need whatever their abilities."

Braywood recently won a £500 award from Mars in recognition of its environmental achievements.

The school had its own millennium pavilion built, an attractive wooden

structure in the middle of a seasonal garden. But Mrs Hibbins thinks it was the policy of saving electricity by not leaving lights on that most impressed the judges.

Four years ago the school acquired a new staff room, a modular building carefully blended in with the main building. More recently it acquired a new temporary building that became available when the old Trevelyan School moved to new premises, providing Braywood with a new classroom, kitchen and dining room.

Braywood First School is attractive enough to be listed but Mrs Hibbins is happy that it is not. The powers that be had the sense to realise that a flourishing school needs to change sometimes especially when its standards are as high as Braywood.

Mrs Hibbins is a mum herself with a son, Seb, who has just finished at Windsor Boys School.



The cross in the Church House is personally important because my father made this from scratch. These are examples of many steps that we, as a community, have made together to make a difference to our school.

I would like to think that I have had a positive effect on many children over the years and they do remember this. Some come back just to say 'hello'. I am at the stage now where the children I have taught have come back to Braywood either as parents with their own children or as teachers. That is such a thrill.

I am looking forward to my retirement and putting these skills into new and exciting ventures."



Welcome to Braywood CE First School



Mrs Susan Calvert

Headteacher, SENCo and Child Protection Lead

"Through the nurturing hands of God, we aspire for all our children to become confident, emotionally resilient and compassionate individuals who achieve personal excellence through strength of character and a love of learning"

I have great pleasure in sharing with you the many exceptional qualities of our school. We have a dynamic learning environment and continually strive towards excellence. Every child is unique. Every child deserves the opportunity to be happy, feel valued and experience success. Strong partnerships with our parents play a crucial role; by working together we can give each child a successful start. The staff are committed, they demonstrate the very best of classroom practice and quite simply, they enjoy their profession. I believe passionately that if you come and visit our school you will experience first hand the happy, inclusive ethos and excitement for learning that exists within our school community.

OFSTED December 2023

"This is a welcoming and caring school. The school's approach to personal development is exceptional. Pupils are friendly and show kindness towards each other. Friendships extend across year groups, and older pupils are impressive role models. The school values are at the heart of the school and are based around strength of character."



QUESTION TIME: Maidenhead MP Theresa May was quizzed by pupils on a variety of topics. Ref:110062-16

'What was your best subject?'

OAKLEY GREEN: A special guest popped in to Braywood CE First School on Friday to join the morning assembly.

Home Secretary Theresa May was treated to a presentation by the children on the history of the school in Oakley Green Road.

The MP for Maidenhead was then grilled by inquisitive pupils on a variety of topics from what her job was like to what her favourite subject was at school.

Headteacher Susan Calvert said: "We were absolutely thrilled that Theresa May came to visit our school."

"We had a lovely morning where the children talked to her about the history of our school, we sang to her and then asked her some questions."

She added that pupils were also excited by the sniffer dogs which accompanied Mrs May's visit, and were given a demo on how they work.



VIP GUEST: The Home Secretary saw a presentation on the history of Braywood First School. Ref:110062-17

Happy 150th birthday

Braywood School celebrates anniversary with a week Victorian-themed events

VICTORIAN dress was the order of the day as Braywood School made a song and dance over its 150th anniversary.

Staff and pupils got into the spirit of things for a themed week to celebrate their school's landmark birthday, with five days of activities that included Victorian singalongs and a darts-into-school day.

Children visited a Victorian schoolroom in Reading to help them appreciate what class life was like for their forebears.

There was also a special session of period dancing to test brains and feet.

To round off the week Royal Borough Mayor Cllr Leo Walters paid a visit to the Oakley Green Road school on Friday.

Pupils and teachers

dressed up in themed costumes for the day, and Mr Walters unveiled a commemorative clock for the anniversary.

Headteacher Susan Calvert said: "We were pleased that so many people turned up and gave us an opportunity to have a look back at our history."

"It was special to share our memories with past pupils and to let our schoolchildren know what a special school they belong to."

"It's a valuable experience for children to know what school life was like in the Victorian era, and means they can place their school in history."

Braywood was built by a vicar in 1857 to provide education for the parish's poor, and by the turn of the century there were 140 children on

the roll.

Former Braywood pupil Alice Webb made a return visit to the school for the celebrations.

The 94-year-old joined the school when the First World War was raging in 1917, and described her spell there as the 'happiest time of my life'.

But she added that she was no fan of her school dinners at the time, saying: "We used to have a big copper bowl which they filled up with food."

"We then had to take a little bowl and slice of bread and have it as our lunch. The dinners were definitely worse."

Cllr Walters said: "It's such a splendid rural school with wonderful surroundings."

"I wish all schools were like it."



BYGONE ERA: Mayor of Windsor and Maidenhead, Cllr Leo Walters, with staff and pupils in Victorian dress to celebrate Braywood School's 150th anniversary.

Teachers hand over charge to Year Four – only for a day

OAKLEY GREEN: Election fever spread to Braywood First School on Friday.

The whole school went to the polls to vote for which year four pupil would take over from the headteacher for a day.

Interested in the role were 13 children who were tasked with writing a manifesto. The 13 were whittled down to four by teachers and on Friday they delivered their statements to the whole school in assembly.

It was a landslide victory for nine-year-old Harry King who will take over from headteacher Susan Calvert for a day.

She said Harry presented well to the other children.

"We try and do an election every time the country has an election," said Susan. "It gives them the feeling of British values, about what democracy means and that you can't always get your own way."

"There was a real buzz round the school, they were allowed to discuss it with the people that sat next to them."

On August 14, day the whole school will be run by year four. They will be in charge of what lessons are on offer and what is covered in them.



BOSS BABY: Susan Calvert and winner of the headteacher vote Harry King. Ref:128233-7

The list of things that the children have opportunity to join is also not complete but consider the 'Kiss and Drop', breakfast club, after school club, sporting activities, nursery school, school trips, music and singing activities outside of school.

It's at this point that I should mention the Parent/Teacher Association whose relationship with the Headteacher is imperative in the continuing support of Braywood School and over the years it is this close working relationship and mutual respect that has helped raise funds for so many of the improvements that Susan has been unable to negotiate with the Borough team. In fact I'd dare to say that Susan's negotiating skills with RBWM is truly remarkable.

Over 30 years ago the seven principles of Public life was established and these have contributed to the standards landscape in the UK. They are the ethical principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. Susan's commitment to Braywood School has been such a wonderful example to us all and has demonstrated that her actions have clearly met all 7 principles and what an inspiration.

Susan, as you walk out of Braywood for the last time as Headteacher and you lock that green front door one final time and start the new chapter of your life, we all want to say thank you, sincerely thank you. We thank you for your personal sacrifices and all the extra hours you've given to the school, we thank you for supporting those children (and staff) who didn't believe in themselves, for ensuring that Braywood School is a safe place. You have led the staff to teach more than just the curriculum requires, attributes like emotional resilience, respect, compassion, courage, forgiveness, ambition, friendship, family, integrity, faith, love, strength of character, and a love of learning.

You are an excellent educator, mentor, coach and counsellor and to many a personal friend. The 'Susan touch' is all over the very fabric of Braywood School and your fingerprints are all over the future of this school in ways you'll never fully see. Be assured that you made a difference to more than 600 children who've been through Braywood school in your time here and more than 50 members of staff (I haven't counted to check!). You made a huge impact on this school, you mattered, you always will and we will raise a glass with our deep gratitude and respect as you start your new chapter.





