

Dear Children, Parents and Carers, Staff and Governors of Parkham and Buckland Brewer Primary Schools,

It was a lovely opportunity for me to call in and see the children and staff at both schools yesterday, especially as I was not able to do so just before I left, due to Covid. I can't believe how the children have grown, not only physically but also in their confidence. They have clearly enjoyed their learning and made loads of progress. It was also good to hear how the new partnership is going and benefitting the children.

I especially wanted to see the Year 6 children who I have seen grow throughout their time at school, into independent, kind and courageous young people. Some were out visiting their new school- so I did not get to see them all, but I do wish them all the very best as they move on in their learning adventure. I know the teachers will miss them all, their individual characters and contributions to school life.

I have missed all the children and staff since leaving, but I am pleased to report that I have settled in my new life in Shetland. I am getting used to the fairly constant wind and rain, but when the sun comes out- which it does frequently, it is beautiful. The staff, children and school community have been very welcoming. Although it is 1000 miles away Shetland is well worth a visit (in the summer months) as it is friendly, magical and mysterious all in one.

Thank you again for giving me a wonderful send off, you'll be pleased to know that the voucher you gave me went towards a very warm coat which has been worn up until recently and will be again very shortly. I have not tried the fishing rod yet- as I think I will need some lessons, as my last experience of fishing was with a plastic rod from Woolworth with a bent pin on the end, fishing off the end of Brighton pier as a child- many, many moons ago!

The holidays are fast approaching (but for me the beginning of a new school term), and so I wish you all happy holidays and a bright and hopeful future as you move forward in the new partnership.

With very best wishes,

Gina Finch



A puffin at Sumburgh Head.



Mousa Broch at midnight- during Simmer Dim



On St Ninian's Isle- The remains of an old chapel where treasure was found by a school boy in the 1950s. This isle is connected to the mainland by a sand bar- tombolo which you can walk across.