

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

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Pupils thank Fenland's refuse and cleansing teams

Pupils at a Whittlesey school have paid a heartfelt thank you to Fenland's refuse, recycling and street cleansing teams for their incredible efforts throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

Park Lane Primary School sent 53 letters from pupils to the frontline teams, thanking the 'unsung heroes' for helping keep their homes and streets clean and safe throughout a challenging 18 months.

The letters have now been put on display on a wall at the teams' headquarters at The Base in Melbourne Avenue, March, bringing a smile to crews every day.

Teacher Peter Ingham said: "At Park Lane Primary School, we have been thinking about the past 18 months and all the people within our local community that we have to be thankful for. We realised that if refuse collectors and street cleaners hadn't continued working throughout this pandemic, often in extremely difficult situations, then our streets would become messy and other more worrying situations would have occurred.

"To show our appreciation, the school wrote letters of thanks to show how much we value the work they do. By thinking about all those who have helped us and continue to do so, it has made us thankful that people like this live and work within our community. Our lives are so much better because the refuse, recycling and cleansing teams have continued to work day in, day out to look after us."

The teams have worked non-stop throughout all the lockdowns and restrictions, ensuring significantly increased volumes of waste and recycling has been collected on time and streets have been kept clean and tidy, despite staff shortages due to self-isolation.

Many members of the public have also expressed their gratitude to crews during the pandemic, leaving thank you notes on their bins and displayed in windows.

Cllr Peter Murphy, Fenland District Council's Portfolio Holder for the Environment, said: "Bin collections are one of our most vital services, provided to over 45,000 households across Fenland. Ensuring that all blue, green, and brown bin collections are maintained throughout the pandemic has been no easy task, but thanks to herculean efforts and dedication of our refuse and recycling crews it has been possible.

"The street cleansing team has also done an incredible job of keeping our streets and town centres clean and safe at all times, as well as our parks and green spaces which have seen increased use. We can all be very proud of the work these teams do for our district."

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Press Office

For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226