

10 ways to celebrate the year

Sometimes it's easy to focus on what went badly or what could have been improved, but actually there will have been lots of things that went well in the year. Whether it was a breakthrough with a student or finding a new way to plan your lessons, big or small, it's important to celebrate.



1. I encourage **shout outs for extra effort** and achievements in newsletters and social media posts. Don't forget to include admin staff, cleaners and support staff - everyone likes feeling valued.
2. I like to **share good news with children's parents**. Whether it's at pick up, via email, a phone call or a letter in your pupil's book bag, it gives everyone an opportunity to celebrate - it also feels good for me to pass on some good news!
3. Hold a **social event** for your department or team. Whether it's a pub quiz or meal at the local Italian, it's a nice way to celebrate getting through the year.
4. I have a **class reward system** to help motivate my students and if they manage to reach the goal I set them by the of the year, we celebrate with a class party. They get to celebrate and plan the event and actually it gives me a sense of achievement too!
5. I **listen to praise** from colleagues, students and loved ones. Sometimes it's all too easy to absorb criticism but it's good to hear the compliments too. This can be built into staff meetings so that everybody gets used to praising and receiving praise
6. **Celebrate more!** Add highlights to your agenda items for next year's meetings. This way it becomes routine and helps you to celebrate the successes - however small.
7. We have an **awards ceremony** for the department at the end of the year. It's quite silly, but shows that you have noticed the staff and have appreciated them, even if it is for their eccentricities...



8. Remember to **thank the teachers or support staff** you manage. A box of chocolates, a card, bottle of wine. Anything that let's them know you appreciate their hard work.
9. Start a **compliment box or success stories jar** in the staff room. Reading them out at the end of the term or year is a great way to acknowledge our fellow colleagues.
10. If you feel like this year wasn't as great as it could have been, remember that's ok too. Everyone goes through ups and downs in their career. **Talk to someone** about how you're feeling, and try to work out next steps together.