

Hello everyone

Well as I said here it is - the final email of a strange, strange summer. In the end I couldn't find the right words to write a letter, so I have taken inspiration from one of our lovely parents who wrote me a very special poem and turned to verse. Please indulge me!!

Before you read it, can I just thank you all, one final time, for your support through these last months. I honestly don't think we could have done what we've done without knowing you were behind our decisions - some of them difficult to make and maybe not always what you wanted to hear. Thank you for your cards, gifts, kind words - and donations. We are well on the way to having enough to buy the 'extras' for each of the year groups. We can't thank you enough.

So I send you love and best wishes from the whole team here at Crofton Hammond Infant school. We will look forward to welcoming our new year R, 1 and 2 children in September and we wish our wonderful year 2 children much luck at their new Junior Schools. We will enjoy our last day tomorrow with our brilliant key worker children - what a great bunch they have been.

Have a wonderful summer,

With love from Jacky

### **The Ballad of Lockdown**

The quiet of a school where children should be

No little faces looking for me,

Key worker children coming to school

While their parents work hard, helping us all.

Singing 'Happy Birthday' as we wash our hands

Mr Muscle sprayed on anything that stands

I'm on Radio Solent, then South Today,

Showing the world the 'Hammond way'.

My lockdown hair reverts to curls  
Which slightly confuses the boys and girls!  
I fill the day by writing cards  
To every child – it's not too hard!

Parents are teachers – doing home learning  
Then working themselves - midnight oil burning.  
Teachers are planning the work to be done  
And trying their best to make sure it's fun.

And then comes the news we've waited for -  
Some of our children can return once more!  
We welcome back year R and year 1  
They bound through the doors ready for fun.

But something's missing - it just won't do  
We're not complete without year 2!  
We 'risk assess', we sort out bubbles  
Until at last we're out of trouble.

Year 2 can return – for just a short while  
But it's worth all the effort to see them smile!  
They stride on in with happy faces  
And sit in their socially distanced spaces.

And in no time at all it's good bye once more  
But this time we're ready to show them the door,  
They've shown us they're ready to join Year 3  
And will embrace the challenge quite happily.

The year is over, though not how we'd planned it  
But when you're older you'll understand it.  
We all pulled together and supported our friends  
But that's not how the story ends.....

We've learned how important our families are  
We've been on our bikes and not in the car,  
We've learned how much our teachers care  
And that we even miss school when we can't be there!

So thank you all for the part you've played  
For the teaching at home – what a difference you've made!  
Enjoy your summer - don't shed a tear  
And lets get ready for a brand new year!