

Morning everyone

Well you knew it was coming! I couldn't end the term without writing to you all to wish you a merry Christmas but also to reflect on what has been quite a term. We have a huge sense of relief that we have got to the end of the term without having to send home any bubbles - we have been so lucky. But I would also like to acknowledge the huge efforts of the staff in helping to keep the school as clean as they have. I never expected to see staff in rubber gloves, aprons and wielding bottles of Mr Muscle on their knees in the children's toilets - that takes commitment!! I can't thank them enough. The fact that they have done this whilst also finding the time to teach your children and to 'catch up' on learning is quite remarkable.

On the subject of learning, I wanted to reassure you all. Our year 2 children have just recorded our second highest ever outcomes for the Phonics Assessment - all your home learning, along with the excellent teaching in class has made a difference. Having assessed them all this term they are about on track with other year 2 children at this time of year. Our year 1 children have amazed us with their attitude to learning. If you've seen the letters they wrote to Father Christmas you will have been as impressed as I was at the progress they have made this term. And our Year R children have taken to school like ducks to water (literally on rainy days like today!) and many of them are reading already. So please don't worry about the time they missed this year - they are catching up.

And think about what else they have learned. They have learned that even when bad things happen, life carries on - even if it is a different life for a while. They have learned that at times like this the most important thing we can share is kindness, and that if we are kind, others will be kind. They have learned that you can have adventures on your own doorstep and that they live in a wonderful part of the world. They have learned the importance of being able to come to school and to learn. And over the summer you will have learned what it's like to teach a child and to marvel at what they are capable of. And based on what we have seen this term you all did a pretty good job!

I also wanted to thank all of you, our parents and grandparents, too. You are very good at thanking us for what we do - but you have played such an important role this term. You've sent your children back to school - all of you - even though you might have felt anxious about this or had vulnerable people in your lives. You gave your precious children into our safe keeping - and you trusted us. Many of you have emailed me personally and this has made a huge difference. It's been a strangely lonely term for me in some ways as I haven't been able to have much contact with the children or be in class like I normally would. Those emails of support have always come at the right time and I thank you for taking the time to send them.

We don't really know what is ahead next term. Things may well be like this for some time and it's more than likely that at some point we will have to send children home. But we will cross this bridge when we come to it. In the meantime I hope that whatever your

Christmas brings, you have a happy and restful time with your children. I'm sure we will all be welcoming in 2021 with extra gusto this year!

With love from Jacky