



Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parents

As today would have been the last day of the summer term for children at Greysbrooke, I wanted to write to you all to express my sincere gratitude.

The past 4 months have not been easy for anyone and I salute you all for tackling home learning with your children whilst also juggling the pressures of working from home; you have been amazing! Your understanding and patience throughout has been much appreciated, especially when we had to make difficult decisions which weren't always popular but necessary in order to keep everyone as safe as possible.

This situation is like no other that we have ever had to face and myself, and the staff, genuinely appreciate all your support and recognition of the job we have done throughout this crazy time to educate, support, reassure and care for your children. The gifts of appreciation and kind words that we have received are incredibly humbling and gratefully received by everyone. Thank you so much.

I would also like to express thanks to the governing body who have offered their continual support and advice throughout these incredibly challenging times. I very much look forward to working with them all in the next academic year and beyond to continue to drive our wonderful school forward.

My heartfelt and special thanks must go to the entire Greysbrooke staff team. They have been phenomenal! What they have achieved and coped with over the last few months is unbelievable and the list really is endless: from working throughout the school holidays to support vulnerable and key worker children; to providing personalised home learning and daily emails of support; to hosting Zoom calls; to sending videos of bedtime stories or videos to support home learning; to reorganising the whole school to enable more children to return; to teaching within bubbles to welcome back more children to school; to working remotely to support families; to juggling their own children at home whilst still working. This is just a small snapshot of what they have been relentlessly undertaking, always with a smile on their faces. I can truly say that I feel incredibly lucky and proud to be leading such hardworking, dedicated and talented staff who have shown me great support and devotion throughout. What a team!

I can't close this letter without mentioning our wonderful Year 6. We were thrilled to be able to welcome them back last week for a goodbye fish and chip lunch and send off. They are an incredibly talented group of children who we know will go far in the future. Year 6, we wish each and every one of you the best of luck in the next exciting chapter of your journey at high school. Continue to be amazing in everything you do and we know you will do us, your parents and yourselves proud. The world is your oyster; it's up to you to find the pearls!

Finally, all that is left to say is take this time now to really enjoy family life without the pressures of home learning thrown into the mix and please continue to take care and stay safe. On behalf of myself and all the staff, thank you once again and have a wonderful summer break; we can't wait to see you all in September!

Best wishes

Ellie Ballinger
Headteacher