



20th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the governors I wanted to say thank you to all those who have kept the school running under such difficult circumstances this year. You, the parents and carers, have been so understanding and supportive, soldiering on with home schooling and getting your child/ren to school when it has been open, despite all the other difficulties most of you will have been dealing with. I can only imagine how hard the home schooling must have been; despite being a teacher throughout my working life I would not have liked to do it, as having to take on two separate roles of parent and teacher was hard enough, without them being combined and with the same children. The children have also been truly amazing, adaptable and resilient. They've had to cope with remote and home learning away from their friends and school staff, and so many disappointments, including everything that has had to be cancelled or run in a different form. It has been especially hard on Year 6 not being able to have their parents at events such as the tea party but sadly the rise in numbers of cases of Covid, the guidelines from the government on bubbles and the risk assessments in place in school meant that we could not allow parents to be in school.

Of course none of it would have been possible without the hard work of every single member of staff; those keeping the children safe and fed at lunchtimes or before and after school, those keeping the building and grounds clean and brilliantly maintained, the admin team who are front of house in the office or working elsewhere round school, and last but definitely not least, the incredible teaching team. I know the teachers have had to work even harder than ever to balance the needs of children in school with those of the children at home, be that during a lockdown or due to children having to isolate, and couldn't have done it without the support of the wonderful teaching assistants. Finally I want to thank Ms Nelson and Mrs Cartwright. Ms Nelson has had to cope with over a year of almost daily emails changing the rules and guidelines, and she and Mrs Cartwright, supported by the rest of the leadership team, have risen to the challenge of making hard decisions and implementing them to keep the children safe and learning, and of keeping the parents and governors informed. It has been a Herculean effort all round.

I would also like to thank both the members of staff who are leaving this time, and Year 6, for their contributions to Mesne Lea they will be missed, and I wish them all the very best in the next stage of their lives.

Although 'Freedom Day' has been and gone we will undoubtedly have to continue to live with this virus for a long time to come. I therefore wish you and your families a happy, healthy, and safe summer holiday.

Kind regards,

Liz Haworth
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