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Friday 24th July 2020

Dear Parents / carers,

What a year! As the year draws to a close I wanted to write to acknowledge what an unusual year it has been and to celebrate our collective achievements in such difficult circumstances.

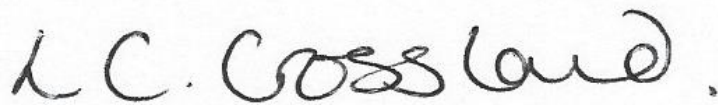
Firstly, home schooling! Everyone has been able to access learning provided by the teacher from our school website or in hard copy. I know children have worked incredibly hard with activities and I appreciate all the hard work parents have put in to support our children - not an easy task and something which I know has caused frustration at times. We appreciate all your hard work and I know this will have served our children well in ensuring they are best placed to come back to us ready to begin the next journey in the new school year. A heartfelt 'Thank you' for sticking with this.

Secondly, September! We are very excited to be able welcome back all pupils and I hope government plans continue as expected ready for September. We have missed you all! Although provision has continued throughout for some children, the school has felt very different and has lacked our 'Cuckney sparkle'. I appreciate for some families the staggered start and finish provides its own challenges. Thank you so much for your kind comments and your willingness to work with these restrictions so we are able to open safely. If/when we are able to evaluate and amend this to ease pressure on you, we will do so as soon as is deemed safe. We are sorry we will no longer be able to chat in the playground at the beginning and the end of the day, but we hope you will contact class teachers by email and telephone more frequently to update us on the important information we may need to help support your children best. We have also allocated a significant amount of curriculum time for pupils to address worries and concerns through our PSHE sessions. We also have Mrs Matthews who is a trained ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) and can offer a program of work to address issues with your child if they are struggling to cope emotionally. Please let us know if you think this will help your child. There are specific topics we can cover such as, bereavement, coping with anger and frustration, socialising and making/adjusting to new friendships as well as attachment and change, having been at home for such a long period of time.

Throughout this pandemic I am thrilled by the way our children have adapted to a different 'normal' and the resilience our families have shown collectively. I'm a firm believer in seeing the positives in life and I know we have all worked hard together to maintain our identity as a school community. Thank you again for this. It has not been easy for any of us at times and I'm proud that we have all 'stuck together' and although the virus may be with us for some time we are now able to return to a more normal lifestyle.

Please stay safe and well over the summer break. Enjoy your family time and I look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L.C. Crossland," with a comma at the end. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Lisa Crossland
Head Teacher