

A Few Final Thoughts...

'Broken pieces when put together make something more beautiful than the original'

Dear Parents / Carers,

I have to admit, this is the hardest newsletter I have ever had to write to you all. Partly because it feels a bit fraudulent, as though we haven't really been here; partly because I feel unfulfilled in some ways as our job hasn't been normal and also guilty because we haven't been able to have some of your children in school. However I did want to finish the year with some important words for you all.

2020 will be remembered for so many reasons and as a school the Covid-19 pandemic has had a profound affect on us all. It has meant we have been apart for a long time; some families have been shielding for 4 months now; some families have been affected through employment, redundancy and others have even lost loved ones. It's hard not to reflect on this but equally we are a primary school where young minds grow and flourish and keep miserable old people like me incredibly happy and give me a sense of purpose.

I want to firstly thank all the children of key workers who have been here throughout the pandemic. Whilst nationally we talk about schools closing, let me make it clear, this school has not once, not one single day, other than the weekends, closed it's doors. We have remained open throughout, including bank holidays, half terms, full holidays. Those children have been exceptional and now deserve a summer away from school.

Secondly I want to thank all the children who have returned to school since we re-opened in June. You have given us all such a boost, a sense of purpose and a bit of normality again. Both you and your parents and carers have been wonderful and it has been such a tonic to bring the school back to life again after such a long time away. Thank you all so much for your enthusiasm, happiness and joy that you always bring. I was so relieved that none of that had disappeared!!

Thirdly I wanted to say how sorry I am for the children in Years 2, 3 & 4 who we were unable to bring back due to the Covid-19 restrictions and guidance. This I feel responsible for and I want you to know that if we could have done, we would have! However I can guarantee we will do everything we can to support you once you return to school in September.

I wanted to save my biggest apology for the children of Year 6. I cannot even put into words how sorry I am for what you have missed out on in the final few months of your time in our school and whilst you will look back in years to come and say that you played a part in history, I just feel so guilty that you have missed out on so much. What I can say however, is just how proud I am of what you have given to our school, not only in the final few weeks of the year but over the last 7 or 8 years. These children have worked so hard in their final year and it says a lot when they are disappointed not to be doing their final SATs exams but that's because they were so motivated, determined and ready to show off their skills, I love that so much, you're incredible. I'm devastated that they missed their trip to London and their final assembly where we all got to celebrate the unique characters we have loved and see flourish and grow. Please, please all of you know how much we have valued and loved every single skill and attribute you have brought to our school.

I wanted to pay a special thank you to the incredible team that I am fortunate to work with in school. There have been many humbling moments for me to reflect on since the school closure was announced. Numerous staff going above and beyond their role to ensure our children could access learning, could be supported during the pandemic, making learning experiences enriching and engaging and just volunteering to support the school and families at any moment. They have missed you all as much as I have and having some normality, but being respectful of the seriousness of the situation, has been wonderful for all of them and whilst we know that it's a team effort: children, parents, carers and school staff I can't tell you just how much it means to us all, having your children back in school and causing chaos around this building, that is simply the best feeling in the world.

So what next...

Well everyone, we can't turn back the clock and change this piece of history but we can look forward with real optimism and take some aspects of what has happened and use them positively as we go forwards.

In school there is a display upstairs along the corridor that I felt was important to mark this time in history. The saying at the beginning of this newsletter hangs in the corridor as I genuinely feel this is how school will be in the future. We were broken by the pandemic but actually we'll bring all of us together again and I know we will definitely not take things for granted perhaps like we did before. I will savour the moments when each and every child is back in school. Even the chaos of a home time or a scrap for a parking space, or a queue for a bagel, just means we're back together in a kind of exciting, thrilling chaos with our amazing, vibrant children at the very heart of it all. I love that so much and can't wait until we have those moments again.

For now, I want to thank you all so much for your patience, understanding and support. This has challenged every ounce of us all and at times it has probably broken us too. That's ok, because we are a family that will support each other, trust each other and help each other to see the good that often comes from adversity. It makes me reflect on the very fortunate position I am in. I get to work with some exceptional children, hugely supportive and caring parents and carers and some genuinely inspirational staff. This is a school built on fun, energy, excitement but with a huge passion for success both in terms of children's academic ability but equally weighted and important is to build them as human beings. To be confident, respectful, honest and hard working but also to extract as much fun and love out of life as possible! Well all the ingredients will be back here in September along with a few people who can make those recipes come to life!!!

I cannot thank you all enough for your support in what appears to be the year that never was but please remember we'll be back in September, even more motivated, excited and enthused. Your children mean the world to us all and thank you so much for believing in us to help them on their journey.

Here's to the best school reunion ever....September 2020...bring it on!!!

Take care and please have a safe Summer. We will be here and you can always contact me on my email address if you need anything at all: head@deepointprimary.cheshire.sch.uk;

Kind regards and much love to you all



Dave Williams (Headteacher)

One final thank you...

A special, heartfelt thank you from us all for the thoughtful cards, messages and gifts not only at the end of the year but throughout the pandemic. We honestly never expect this and are always so humbled, but I wanted you to know how much it is appreciated. Thank you all.