

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is always a great privilege to be able to write the end of year letter on behalf of the Governing Body at Netherbrook – but, as with many things in 2020, this one is particularly poignant!

Although, for many of us, it feels that the children have been at home forever, they managed to pack in quite a lot before lockdown! Children enjoyed trips to the Safari Park and The Snowdome, along with the Rainforest Roadshow and the Animal Lady. The children delighted us with their performances in the talent show, the EYFS Nativity, Ned's Christmas Discovery and carol singing at Netherton Green Care Home.

As always, the football team put in an excellent performance and were unbeaten in all of their matches leading to the semi-final. Sadly, the team lost on sudden death penalties but played exceptionally all season. The school Tag Rugby team showed similar spirit in their matches earlier in the year. The success continued off the field with pupils from Year Four winning the Rotary Club Spelling Competition, it is wonderful to see success across the school. Well done teams!

The Governors managed to spend some time in school before Christmas. We observed lessons, reviewed books and looked at the communication friendly spaces created around the school. This year we spent parents evening chatting to as many parents as we could. It was good to be able to understand how other parents feel about the school and to have some feedback on what is working well and not so well. Whilst we have not been able to visit the school recently, we have continued to meet virtually and discuss the changes taking place in the school.



During our visits we were delighted to speak to so many articulate, well mannered, engaged and happy children – they really demonstrate the values of the school and remind us why Netherbrook is such a great place to be. During my last visit I spent some time with year six during an art lesson. At this age the children are really developing their confidence and we had some excellent conversations. It is incredibly sad that our year 6 children have not been able to enjoy the send-off that they expected, we hope that they are leaving Netherbrook full of many happy memories and as confident, well rounded and resilient individuals. We hope that the events of the past few months do not dampen how they feel about their time with us and we encourage all of them to look back at all of their wonderful experiences and move forwards in their journey with excitement and confidence.

We have been delighted to see all of the videos and messages on the school website and the Twitter news feed. It is heartening and reassuring to see so much wonderful home schoolwork along with some very entertaining videos! The use of social media can so often be a double edged sword but keeping in touch and continuing to share in the success of the children in this way has helped to maintain the feeling that we really are a community.



## Thank You

This year, more than ever before the Governors would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to all of the staff at Netherbrook for striving to provide the very best education to the children but also for keeping them safe, happy, supported and well fed. For rising to the challenges that they have faced this year and ensuring that they remained open to support our most vulnerable children and the children of keyworkers.

To the children for being enthusiastic, polite and always trying to do the best that they can. Finally, to everyone at home supporting the children and the school to ensure that we can all work in partnership to achieve the same goal – happy, confident, well-educated children.

## Finally!

We know that September will feel strange to us all and that some of us will feel apprehensive about the return to school. Please rest assured that a great deal of work is going in to the plans for September, to ensure that everyone is kept as safe as possible but also to make sure that children are happy and reassured and that they transition smoothly to their new classes.

**Catherine Smith, Parent Governor and Vice Chair of Governors – on behalf of the Governing Body**

