



Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today marks the end of the 2019-20 academic year and what a completely crazy one it has been! Who would have thought back at Christmas that the new year would have looked like this?!

It has been a very unsettling, worrying and tragic time for so many in our country, and those of us who are lucky enough to be largely unaffected should feel very lucky. If you or your family have been affected by the current crisis, then I extend our deepest sympathies and support to you. We will be here for whatever you need when we return in September.

I am so very grateful to all of my fantastic staff for their hard work, commitment and dedication over the whole year and especially the last four months. Everyone has pulled together to truly meet the challenges we have faced and to ensure that our pupils have had a good learning experience in very difficult circumstances. It has been a real team effort and one that will live long in the memory.

I am also really grateful to all of our fantastic parents, carers and wider families. Your words of encouragement, praise and thanks have meant so much to us over the lockdown. It has really made the difference to us. We have also appreciated the feedback and advice from parents and also our school Governors who have been with us throughout. I know that many of you have been working really hard to keep your children learning at home – this is no small order and you deserve a lot of respect, credit and thanks for the efforts you have made. Your children will be all the better for it, I assure you.

It seems like ages ago now, when I was coming to work with just 3 pupils here and 8 staff during the first stages of lockdown. In the end we were able to accommodate the return of everyone that required places in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and many other Keyworker and vulnerable children too – many schools simply haven't done this. We have 115 pupils attending school each week at the moment - just over a quarter of the school. But, we are now ready to welcome all of the others back too. We can't wait! I recently re-read some of my early lockdown letters – 'hopefully we will only be closed for two weeks and will be back after Easter!' This seems so very unrealistic now but... who knew!!!

Everyone's Covid19 experience will have been very different – good or bad, but hopefully we are now moving back to some semblance of a 'new normality'. Yesterday, I sent out our organisation information for September. Please read this very carefully, as it contains a lot of important information. We are aiming for school to be as normal as possible, but obviously there will be some significant changes.

All I really want to say for now is a big thank you for everything and we will see you all again very soon. Life restarts for Netherbrook on Wednesday 2nd September – do please look at the organisational letter to make sure you know where and when to bring your children into school on that day.

Enjoy the summer, stay safe and take care.

Yours sincerely,

P Rawlings

Mr P Rawlings

Headteacher

