July 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Wow! What a year! The 2020/2021 year will be certainly be remembered by us all. I would like to extend my pride and admiration in how our school community has worked together, in the face of immense change and challenges. Our pupils have transitioned from remote learning to being back in school and for some back again, embracing the learning opportunities and experiences which we have tried so hard to provide despite restrictions.

A huge thank you to all our staff team in a year of unprecedented change. Thank you to all the teachers and teaching assistants who have learned a whole bag of new skills and made the transitions from school to remote learning and back to school learning as positive an experience as possible. The welfare staff who have kept our lunchtimes safe. The cleaning staff who have kept school clean and disinfected. The administrative and office staff who have taken many hundreds of phone calls and emails as well as completing endless Covid administrative tasks alongside their usual roles. To you all: thank you.

To our governors who have supported and helped in numerous ways over the year that many are unaware of - thank you. Your time is given freely and is much appreciated.

To those people who prefer to be nameless but have given their time to help in different ways - you know who you are! Thank you for being there when school has needed you!

And of course, to all our parents - thank you for your understanding and patience, for your support in remote learning, bubbles bursting and lockdown. Your reactions and the way in which we all react to the challenges this year are reflected in the very positive ways in which your children have managed the changes to their academic and social learning and their well being. Your support for your children and for our school has been immense. Thank you.

Our Year 6 pupils leave Penwortham Primary School on Tuesday after a unique final year in primary school. We are immensely proud of them and know that they will continue to share their Personal Best. They have bright futures and happy lives ahead because they recognise they can make a difference. Our Leaver's Service on Tuesday will be a celebration of all they have achieved and all they hope to be as they move to high school.

We also say 'Goodbye' to three long serving members of staff: Mrs Taylor, Mrs Curran and Mrs Hall. We wish you all a very happy time in your future plans; you will all be missed.

Congratulations to Miss Andrew who is getting married during the summer holidays. We wish her and her new husband a very happy life together and to welcoming Mrs Kirkpatrick back in September!

As we look forward to September we are planning for a return to a more 'normal' curriculum and school day. There is so much to look forward to: a 'proper' whole school Sports' Day in September (provisional date 16th September); exciting curriculum developments linked to our three curriculum development areas (the arts, outdoor learning and diversity). We will have Forest School activities running throughout the year; music lessons in which every child will have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument; a school linking project to learn about a school diverse to our own and lots of visitors and visits linked to our curriculum.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back with our new reception class on 2nd September 2021. Have a safe and happy summer.

Helen Hesketh