

Chair of Governors letter 12 December 2020

14th December 2020

Dear Families

In writing my end of year letter to you all, I recognise what a challenging time we are living through and I thank you all for your efforts in support of both your own children and BFS overall.

Those of you with children who have joined Nursery or Red Class this year may not be fully aware of how the operation of the school has been affected by the pandemic and how much hard work has gone into setting up and operating the new routines.

Those who have older children will be well aware that certain aspects of the school experience have been affected in order to minimise the transmission risks for both children and staff. However, I am sure that you will agree that Mrs Moss and her staff have made every effort to keep as close to the previous approach as the strict health guidelines and operation of 'bubbles' will allow.

As a result of their hard work, we have so far been able to keep the whole school open throughout the term and, although some children and staff have had to self isolate and work from home during the autumn term, the overall attendance figures have been impressively high.

I hope that we can continue to stay open in the New Year and your continued cooperation with the safety guidance which has been circulated this week would be greatly appreciated.

Following the full return to school in September, the children were allowed to settle back into the school environment during the first few weeks and then their abilities assessed in order that the impact of the disruption on their schooling could be identified and the way in which the curriculum should be adjusted could be determined.

The impact has been much less at BFS than nationally because of the significant efforts by staff and families in supporting home learning but even so the overall assessments identified areas that need attention, e.g. writing has needed additional attention.



The assessment of the level of development of each child, as is done routinely, has allowed individual issues to be identified and support provided as needed. The school has set targets for each year group and individuals for the overall academic standards to be achieved by next July and the Governing Body will continue to monitor progress during the year. The way in which specific Covid-19 recovery funding for this is being employed is shown on the BFS website.

As you know, the aims of BFS are much wider than the just academic performance and it is important to note that the range of activities continues to be impressive, though I regret that the 'bubble' approach has meant that contacts between children in different year groups, e.g. in clubs, has been reduced. However, the use of Zoom for assemblies and sharing of activities such as the Rainbow Project has partly offset this.

The possibilities for educational trips, competitive team sports and residential trips are currently limited but I am sure that these activities will be reintroduced as soon as it is safe to do so. Planned visitors, such as a string trio from the CBSO in January and a virtual visit to Worcester Cathedral during the Spring term will develop opportunities for the children.

I should like to thank the PFTA for their various efforts e.g. the scarecrow event, which have supported the community feel of the school at a time when some of the traditional activities such as the Summer Fayre and Christmas Fete have not been possible.

At the recent Governing Body meeting we thanked Mrs Moss and all the staff for their truly outstanding efforts throughout the year. I am sure that you will join with us in recognising what a mammoth effort this has been and how fortunate we are to have such dedicated staff.

Season's greetings to you all.

Hugh Evans

Chair of Governors



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