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Newsletter - Thursday 16th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I think this is the strangest end of year newsletter I have ever written!

What we have all lived through in the last few months has been completely unprecedented and looking back, despite the worrying aspect of the pandemic, has led to so much kindness, sharing, caring and just being there for family, friends and even people we haven't known. The way the whole school community has worked together is phenomenal and fills me with a huge sense of pride. I have always been very proud of the whole of the Whinfield community but the way everyone has pulled together in recent months is awesome!

At the heart of everything, are the children of Whinfield. They have proven that, they have resilience, are adaptable, can 'remotely' learn new skills and constantly surprise the adults around them. They should be commended for what they have achieved.

We need to pay tribute to our Year 6 pupils who have experienced a very 'unexpected' last year in primary and not the planned transition which has taken place in other years to prepare them for secondary school. They need to know that we have told all the secondary schools how amazing they are! Although we haven't been able to arrange our normal Year 6 'treats', we have made sure that each child has a Leavers hoodie as a reminder of their time at Whinfield and we wish all of them the very best of success in their future educational journey!

I also want to pay tribute to the staff who were thrown into 'remote' learning and who have grabbed it, very rapidly learnt how to use it, and provided the children of this school with a very varied curriculum. They have kept in touch with children and families through email, telephone, face to face support and through the 'blogs.' They have foregone holidays to ensure the school has remained open for Key Worker children. I am immensely proud of all of them - it hasn't mattered whether staff have remained at home or been in school, all have worked tirelessly to ensure the children of this school have had well planned, marked, interactive learning to ensure their learning journey continued.

Finally, parents/carers, as I always say we couldn't do any of this without your support. Your kind words, emails, texts have really kept us going. We haven't got it right all of the time and have had to change, amend, adapt what we have planned in order to follow the Government guidance which changed very quickly - at some points overnight! A massive thank you to all of you and we really do look forward to seeing you all again in the not too distant future.

I sent a newsletter on Tuesday detailing September and the plan for the whole school return.

The school closes today for the summer. The year group email addresses will not be monitored over the summer holidays. If you have an urgent concern, please contact Mrs Murray on 07469 402630 or the Children's Services Front door on 01325 406222.

School re-opens on Thursday 3rd. September.

I wish you all a super summer holiday. Follow the guidance you are given and stay safe.

Take care and see you in September.

Shirley Welsh.

