

17/12/2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write to you all at the end of another extraordinary term to thank you for your ongoing support of our schools and to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

There is no doubt that it continues to be a very challenging time for schools, as it inevitably is in all sectors of society. Yet I am very proud of all of the measures that have been put in place to try and rebuild our school communities, mitigate the worst effects of the pandemic and regain some of the opportunities that were lost to us over the previous months.

Over the last term we have been able to participate in sporting fixtures, host visiting speakers, resume trips and visits – even some residential ones – and put on performances and concerts. At last, pupils have been able to share and join in social events and opportunities to enrich their school experiences outside of the classroom. I have been really lucky to attend some of these and there is no doubt in my mind that there is equal value in what we do outside of the classroom with what takes place inside. I have always said that schools should be fun and it had been heartbreaking to see the impact of Covid on the social, cultural and sporting opportunities we have been able to offer. The vibrant newsletters and social media posts from this last term tell a very strong story of recovery and resilience.

Alongside this all schools have undergone a comprehensive safeguarding review. I am delighted to report that we have passed with flying colours. Our schools are safe and happy places where pupils trust adults to look after them and they feel well supported if they need help.

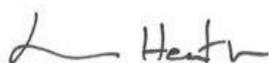
All of this and any normality we have been able to provide has been down to the hard work and commitment of Mr Blackburn and his team. I am enormously grateful to them all for working so hard to ensure that we can continue to provide an excellent education for our children and young people.

I hope very much that we can continue this positive journey back to somewhere close to pre-pandemic status after Christmas but am also confident that should more testing times come again, we will do everything we can to work alongside you and support you and your children.

Despite the challenges, we remain strong and resilient and determined to work in the best interests of our school communities.

I hope that you are able to rest and enjoy a well-deserved break over the festive period; that above all you and your families are safe and well and that you have a very Happy Christmas

Yours sincerely



Lorraine Heath, OBE  
Chief Executive Officer