

## Highworth Combined School

Dear parents, carers, staff and governors

Firstly, Eid Mubarak to all celebrating either yesterday or today. It must be a joy to spend time with family and friends at such an important time after so long apart. I am very sorry that celebrations for some of you have been spoilt by the need for your children to self-isolate.

Although we are looking forward to the holidays, there is much sadness that we cannot end the year properly with children and adults from Year 2 and Year 5 not in school. The teachers for these year groups have recorded short messages to mark the end of another year. These can be viewed using this link:

[https://www.highworth.bucks.sch.uk/web/end\\_of\\_year\\_messages/567519](https://www.highworth.bucks.sch.uk/web/end_of_year_messages/567519)

As we reach the end of another, somewhat difficult, school year, I'd like to express my gratitude to all the various members of our school community.

I want to say 'Thank you' to you as parents. I know that it has most definitely not been easy, but I hugely appreciate the way in which you have accepted the difficult circumstances in which we have found ourselves on so many occasions. Equally, I'd like to say 'Thank you' for the way in which you have supported your children. Their success is a true testament to the support you have given them.

I also want to say 'Thank you' to our wonderful team of teachers, coaches and learning support staff. They have gone above and beyond to do the best for your children, making sure that they are back 'on track' with learning and ready to fly next academic year.

Many of you know how much support children here receive from our dedicated and highly skilled Inclusion team (SENCO, Hearing Impaired Department staff, Learning Mentors and Parent Support Worker). They have been busier than ever this year, making a difference for so many children and families. A huge 'Thank you' to all of you too.

Everyone at Highworth benefits from the dedicated support of our 4 member Admin team & Caretaker. This year has thrown up many new challenges, all of which they have taken in their stride. 'Thank you'

Sadly, we have had to change our approach to providing school lunches, but the Catering Staff & Midday Supervisors have done an amazing job of adapting to a new way of working. 'Thank you' to them also.

Being a head teacher during a pandemic has been tricky at times, but I am very lucky to work alongside 2 wonderful deputy head teachers, Mrs Day and Mrs Dimishky. They have provided support, advice and reassurance for which I would like to thank them very much.

Thank you to our team of governors who give up so much of their time to offer both challenge and support, ensuring the continued success of our school.

And finally, the biggest thank you of all must go to your children. They have amazed us throughout the year. They have come into school with a desire to learn and a joy for life. They have brought humour and energy back into a school which was lost without them. They are the reason we all get up every day. They have shown incredible resilience, tried their best, they have stuck at it when it's been tough, and usually with a smile too! It is a joy and privilege to spend time with them; you should be incredibly proud.

School staff will now be taking a well-earned break until we return for Inset days on 1<sup>st</sup> September. I will write on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September with any updates that are important for you to know before the return to school, which for most pupils is Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

I wish you the happiest of times with your wonderful children, family and friends.

Love and best wishes

Clare Pankhania