



BISHOP CORNISH CHURCH OF ENGLAND V.A. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the governing body, I would like to acknowledge what a strange school year it has been, but mostly to send our heartfelt thanks to each and every person included in our school family and the wider community who has kept going throughout this very intense time.

From the moment the rumours of the pandemic began to circulate the staff, children and local community have come together to support each other and to adapt to a new way of living. Although school "closed" back in March it has never been completely closed, with provision being made initially for our most vulnerable and the children of keyworkers. Since then all members of staff have been working tirelessly supporting the children and their families as they have been the central point between government's rapidly changing guidance, and families who have been overwhelmed by the changes in society in such a short period of time.

School became a centre for 'edu-care' where it became apparent that we really are a school family with children from Reception to year 6 working and playing together (socially distanced, of course!) and providing a support for each other whilst navigating an unprecedented new way of doing things.

The list of people I would like to single out to thank seems endless and includes, but is by no means limited to:

Mrs Green who has tirelessly steered a course through these uncertain and unsettling times, providing a calming reassurance of familiarity and continuity for the children and maintaining an amount of normality, fun and adventure for those in her care. Since the very beginning of lockdown Mrs Green has not had a day off, even working through Easter and May half term, demonstrating her dedication and loyalty to those families she serves. It has been incredibly difficult at times to interpret the rapidly changing and often conflicting guidance but she has successfully managed to navigate it all and devise ways to make it work.

The teachers who have been absolutely amazing in their dedication and commitment to the children and the school.

The support staff working tirelessly behind the scenes, endlessly cleaning the school to make it safe, organising attendance rotas so that we could support the families who needed their children to be in school whilst keeping numbers at a safe level.

The keyworker parents who sent their children to school so that they were able to support the country when it was in need.

The keyworker parents who were able to work from home and kept their children home so that school would not be overwhelmed.

All the parents who have had more time with their children now than they have had since they were babies and have tried to support their education as best they could (and now fully appreciate how hard teaching is!)



To the grandparents and wider families who have had the painful task of not being able to meet together and have made do with contact by phone and Zoom when all they have wanted is to hold their dearest tightly.

To the wider community who have donated to the Food Bank and kept it stocked so that no family need go hungry.

But most of all, I would dearly like to thank our children who have borne the brunt of this cruel time with all of their routine taken away from them, their friendship circles distanced through necessity, their activities cancelled and a willingness and understanding well beyond their years, of the issues we have all faced together.

We look forward to the future and our plans for the coming year and we also take this time to thank the fantastic staff, PTA, parents and everyone who has contributed to the wellbeing of the school throughout the year.

Moving into the new school year we will continue to support the school in adapting to the guidance issued by the government and ensuring that we fulfil our duties as Governors with an emphasis on supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of the children, families and staff.

Once again thank you, it has been truly humbling to see that when the going gets tough Bishop Cornish comes together in support.

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

God bless,

Teresa Lindeyer

Chair of Governors.