



QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

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Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parents,

Well..... we got there. I cannot believe that is another academic year finished and my goodness what a strange year it has been. I will certainly remember my 13th year as Head Teacher! I don't think any of us could have predicted in September last year what this academic year would turn out like, but like I said in one of my first coronavirus weekly letters to you, it really has brought out the absolute best in people.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents who have supported the children with their home learning, gently motivating them and nurturing them every step of the way. Your time and patience will have made such a big difference and is greatly appreciated by all the staff here. I am sure there were days that tested everyone but hopefully there is light at the end of the tunnel with all children coming back to school in September.

I think I have received the kindest emails and messages in my entire headship during the lockdown period from families which have all been passed onto the staff- thank you so much. They are thoroughly appreciated and have kept us all going.

Seeing some of the children come back since the start of this term only proved what we already knew; children are incredibly resilient and have risen to all the challenges. They have adapted brilliantly to their slightly strange surroundings and routines and have still left school happy every afternoon. Credit to them. During my staff briefings ahead of June 1st I explained to staff that it was the people who make a difference to children, the surroundings are just frills around the edges - and I hope you agree, the staff have been amazing at ensuring the children have been cared for and supported both pastorally and academically.

We have been sad that we couldn't have all year groups back before the summer break, but the fortnightly phone calls have kept us linked up and the teachers have enjoyed these conversations very much. Thank you to the parents for facilitating these calls and encouraging the children to talk (although some certainly didn't need any encouragement)!

I would like to take this opportunity to say a particular thank you to the families of Year 6- it has been especially tough for Year 6 finishing their time at primary school in these circumstances. However, I hope the children enjoy the short film the teachers have made for them and I will invite them back for an evening 'do' once it is safe to do so. We have thoroughly enjoyed having you all at Queensway and wish you the very best for the future.

For everyone else, we are all looking forward to having a full school of children again on Wednesday 2nd September when we return. Thank you in advance for the continued patience and understanding whilst we still work within strict Government guidelines. Moving forward, I will communicate any significant information or changes to you but I won't do a Friday letter every week from September as I need to try and get back to some 'normal work' too! Myself and some of the other Senior Leaders will be plotted around the site the first week of term guiding families so everyone knows where to go and which entrances etc to use, so please don't worry about getting lost.

As always, we ask that you keep instilling a love of reading in the children over the summer, so these basic skills continue to develop and grow.

Support over the summer:

- Food banks- Tuesday at The Peoples Church, Banbury 10-12 and Thursday at St Francis Church, Banbury 10-12. Please ring CAB on 0300 330 9037 for a referral. If you are self-isolating, have no money for food and no one to collect food for you please ring CAB on 0300 303 0125. If you wish to donate to foodbank

click here <https://banbury.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/> Please also find further information on the foodbank website: www.banbury.foodbank.org.uk

- Resources from Mental Health Support Team:
 - [..\17.7.20\MHST Primary Newsletter.pdf](#)
 - [..\17.7.20\MHST Summer Webinars.pdf](#)
 - [..\17.7.20\Peer Pressure.pdf](#)
 - [..\17.7.20\Summer Challenge Primary.pdf](#)
 - [..\17.7.20\Top Tips.pdf](#)
- Develop road safety: [..\17.7.20\Footsteps Parents Guide 2019.pdf](#)

So, on behalf of all the staff at Queensway, have a wonderful summer; keep well and stay safe.

Mrs Sarah Horbury-Jakeman
Head Teacher