

Dear parents and carers,

This email officially marks the end of the strangest academic year we have ever known. The Autumn term seems like years ago, and I think back to it as a simpler, more carefree time. Who knew in September that we would be completely familiar with the terms lockdown, social distancing, track and trace, and bubbles? I had a particularly surreal moment when talking to staff about 'ensuring the integrity of the bubbles'! I am also sure that absolutely no-one anticipated becoming their own child's teacher for 5 months. It has been a time for reflection on what is important in life, for appreciating what we have, for looking after each other and for being kind wherever we can, as so many people are going through difficult times. We, as a community, and a nation have shown immense gratitude to the NHS and other organisations who have kept the country running. I would like to offer a huge thank you to all our parents who work in the NHS, social care, care homes, IT support, education, retail and in other key worker roles.

I would also like to thank you all for the support and positive feedback you have given to me and the staff team. We too have had to adapt to ways of working that are not familiar, and had to establish a home school learning programme at 2 days' notice, as we simultaneously closed the school and re-opened as childcare for children of key workers. We changed and adapted according to feedback and as time went on, and as we became more certain that school closure would be longer than we thought. I don't think any of us anticipated on 20 March that we wouldn't see some children back in school until September. We are so looking forward to having everyone back in September!

The staff at Bourn have been amazing, most especially in whatever role they have had in the closure period. Some staff have had to remain at home due to medical conditions, but this has not stopped them from being an integral part of the team. Mrs Culley, Miss Ivory and Mrs Noble have led the home learning, and have supported children and parents through this time, especially when things changed and we established more structured learning. Miss Simmons, Mrs Lutkin and Mrs McCullum also spent a lot of time phoning children, particularly those they worked closely with.

Prior to the re-opening on 8 June, all our teachers phoned you and your children every week to see how you were getting on and to see if you needed any additional help or support. I would like to thank Mrs Maher, Mr Parkin, Mrs Tagger (who returned from maternity leave just as the school was re-opening), Mrs Balls, Mrs Noble, Miss Nutland, Miss Ivory, Mrs Gawthrope, Mrs Faulkner, Mrs Culley and Mrs Wheatman for their unending care and concern for all the children in their classes, whether they were in school or at home.

Our team of Teaching Assistants have been invaluable during this time. They, along with the teachers, have worked in Bourn Club since March, looking after the children of key workers. Once school re-opened, they have been supporting in so many ways, including in class and key worker bubbles, sorting out cupboards and classrooms, preparing books and resources for next year, and providing general support for the teachers. Mrs Armitage too, has been busy. As well as continuing on line piano lessons she has also re-decorated the Music Room and helped develop a new music curriculum.

I would also like to thank the kitchen staff, Barbara, Linda, Corinne and Alex for their work and for changing their working patterns so they can continue to provide lunches for children in their classrooms.

We could not function as a school without our administrative team. Debs has been a star, all the way through, whether working from home or back in school. The admin involved with having a school in

school and a school at home has been immense, but she has dealt with it all with her usual good humour! Behind the scenes are our Finance Team, Lesley Cordingley and Jane Handy, our School Business Manager. Again, they moved the business of the school from the office to home without breaking a sweat, and the school ran as clockwork, as usual – a testament to their efficient systems and working practices.

You will have seen, either in real life, or on the photos, that many areas of the school grounds have been transformed over this time. Tarn Garner, our Site Manager has taken the opportunity to get the site looking spick and span inside and out. Mr Gawthrope and Jason Neville have spent many hours developing the garden areas and building picket fences, as well as tending to the garden and new areas of lawn. They have all done an amazing job and we can't wait for the children to see what they have created.

I would especially like to mention Jason Neville and Fiona Neville for the thorough and painstaking work they have done on deep cleaning the school during lockdown and keeping it spotless. They have worked so hard and taken so much time and care over their work and we are really lucky to have them.

I would also like to thank the Governors of the school for continuing to provide strategic direction, signing off our risk assessments, and ensuring that we continue to provide a high quality education to all of our children, not just those in school. I would especially like to acknowledge the contribution of Sharon Peer, our outgoing Chair of Governors. She has been an absolute rock and she has provided invaluable support to me, not just during this time, but since I started as Headteacher (which seems like many, many years ago, but is actually 18 months!) Sharon started as a Governor at Bourn at the same time as our Year 6s started in Acorn class, and during this time, she has given the school a significant amount of her time and energy to ensure that every year, the school is as good as it can be. I would like to acknowledge Sharon's dedication to the education of every child in this school, and thank her for all she has done. Paul Gildersleve, is also leaving the governing body this year after years of dedicated service to the school and I would like to thank him too for everything he has done for the school and its staff. We will miss you both.

I would like to say a fond farewell to two members of staff who are leaving us today. Firstly to Hazel Maher, who joined us in September to cover Mrs Tagger's maternity leave. She welcomed our new Acorn Class in September and very quickly became an established member of the team. Her cheerful smile and generous spirit has brought something special to the school and we will miss her. The other member of staff leaving is Jane Handy, our School Business Manager. This role is absolutely crucial to the effective running of the school and Jane's professionalism has meant that the school has run efficiently and effectively, which is no mean feat given the difficult financial situation of schools currently. Jane has been a huge support to me personally and I will miss her too. I wish her all the best in her new role of Chief Financial Officer for a Multi Academy Trust – she will be brilliant.

Finally, we say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children. They have not had the Year 6 experience they were expecting, but it is a real testament to their strength of character and positive attitude that they have taken everything in their stride. They have made the best of the experiences they have had and we have been so impressed with them all individually and as a year group. We wish them all the best for their secondary school career. To those parents who are also leaving Bourn with their Year 6s, thank you for everything you have done to support your child and the school.

So, this is it – the end of the year – finally. You have done an amazing job of educating your children in your own home schools and thank you. We'll take it from here!

See you in September.

Best wishes,

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