



Greystoke Primary School

Enabling our children to reach
their full potential

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Dear Parents/Carers

As we near the end of our Autumn term I just wanted to take a moment to reflect on the year so far. There is no doubt this term has been somewhat of a roller coaster for us all and it has certainly presented many challenges!

Firstly, I would like to thank all of our amazing children for the way they have risen to these challenges; their attitudes towards and acceptance of the many changes in school have been a model to the rest of us in how to be resilient in the face of adversity. I know it hasn't been easy for some children, but by working together with you as parents I feel we have provided a level of care and support to be proud of. Your children are a credit to yourselves and the community, the future certainly looks bright with them at the helm!

I would also like to thank you as parents and carers for all the support you have shown the school and myself too; the emails, letters, cards and phone calls of encouragement have meant a great deal to me and the rest of the team. We know at times it hasn't always been perfect but please be assured we have done our best and are always happy to receive feedback in order to continually improve. So many of you have had to take on the role of teacher this term, as your children or whole classes have had to self-isolate, we appreciate how difficult this can be, especially alongside all your other demands and we are so grateful for the way you have tackled this and also provided helpful and constructive feedback.

I would finally like to thank our whole staff team who I can assure you have gone above and beyond every day in school, putting themselves on the front line and doing whatever is necessary to keep our children safe whilst also continuing to provide the highest standards of education and care. I am so proud of the attention to detail so many of our staff have in ensuring that nothing is overlooked as we all adjust to our new way of working and delivering learning. I have been particularly impressed and proud of the way home learning has been organised, delivered and supported and although we are at the very beginning of this journey, with a lot to learn, I couldn't be happier with the way staff have embraced this new normal and adapted their planning, timetables and skillset in order to keep up with the rapid changes afoot.

It would be very easy at a time like this to overlook all the fantastic things that we have achieved this term, but I believe it is important to ensure we don't let covid-19 overshadow the successes of the term. We continue to deliver whole school assemblies 3 times a week via Teams whether children are in school or at home and particularly enjoy celebrating all of our children's achievements in our fabulously celebratory Friday assembly. We have tweaked hot chocolate Friday slightly but continue to celebrate our golden star winners with hot chocolate being delivered to classes! We have taken part in virtual games tournaments across the school, with KS1 absolutely excelling in the recent cricket tournament and have established a school council to be proud of, some of whom have already attended a virtual meeting with the director of the UK Space Agency alongside other representatives from other schools in the Trust. We also took part in an active travel competition culminating in one of our lucky children having her entry chosen to be a banner



on the school gates which is fantastic. More recently, every single year group has recorded a carol/nativity concert for your enjoyment, and I have to say it has been an absolute pleasure to hear singing once again throughout the school. In addition, with your contributions and generosity we have raised considerable sums for Children in Need, had a terrific response to our Harvest appeal and are raising funds for Save the Children. Families have continued to be so generous in donating to the foodbank collection in reception and we know how very appreciated this is right now. The community response in terms of our Friends of Greystoke group and the efforts they have gone to this term to keep spirits up and fundraising going has been amazing. For me this exemplifies the true purpose of a school at the heart of a local community; it has been truly humbling at times.

Upon reflection, this term may have presented many challenges, but it has also brought out the very best in our whole community. I hope moving forward that we hold onto the positives this pandemic has brought to us. The sense of team and community is palpable and something I am very proud of. I look forward to the term ahead and continuing to work with you all to ensure we strive to be the best primary school in the country and that your children get the best educational experience possible.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and happy New Year and hope you and your loved ones remain safe and well over the holiday period.

Yours Sincerely



Ronnie Richardson

