

Newsletter 8th January 2021

Dear parents,

At this time of the year, on my first letter to you, I should be full of cheers and happy wishes. However, at the moment, I somehow seem to be unable to utter such words.

As we stare in the face of a new year, I feel filled with hopes and wishes for better days and continue praying each day for a change of tone in the news announcements.

Until we have such changes, we must continue to work together to slow the spread of the virus to, in turn, rid the population of it. Our school continues to be closed to most pupils, and we now know this is going to be so for the next few weeks. Limiting attendance is about reducing the number of contacts that all of us have with people in other households. When challenged with the rapidly rising numbers of cases across the country and intense pressure on the NHS, we need to use every lever at our disposal to reduce all contacts outside households wherever possible.

I understand how extremely difficult this is for some parents who now need to adapt and, in some cases, juggle important duties with schooling their children. You are doing an amazing job, I imagine at times it may not feel like it but it is a really valuable one. It is very commendable how children and parents alike are adjusting and thriving in their use of technology to continue supporting the remote learning.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all parents who are overcoming many barriers to ensure their children remain at home. I thank you for your support.

When I have some 'wobble' moments about working during a pandemic, and believe me I have many, I turn to admire the work that is happening online.

I can't help but be lifted by the incredible resilience children show. I do not cease to be amazed at the way children acclimatize to new ways of learning with such ease. The attendance during this last week to lessons online was phenomenal. In most groups we have had 100% attendance, which is truly remarkable. This would not happen without the support of families as well as the hard work of teachers.

It is commendable how the whole community is pulling together to make it work. I can only hope that after a few weeks of huge sacrifices from everyone we can finally beat the virus. Perhaps then, we can get back to that 'normality' we now miss and long for.

Maybe for now we need to put our New Year resolutions aside but the time will come when we will get back to doing what we love and what we are accustomed to.

Until then, I wish you all a safe and healthy 2021.

Have a safe and restful weekend.

Kind regards

Mrs Gonzalez