

23rd July 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians

As this is my final letter to you this year, I can, with all certainty, say that this academic year has brought with it a series of unprecedented challenges. I can also say that this year has also seen an equal number of successes and that is thanks to the resilience of the children of Goosewell combined with the dedication of our talented staff.

Looking back, we started the year with a clear focus; introduce a new curriculum, raise standards and the most mouthed word was 'Ofsted'. By Christmas, our curriculum was established, children were happily enjoying their new topics and standards were clearly rising. Ofsted came and went, giving their stamp of approval and as a team we took a breath and continued with our agenda of school improvement. Clearly, the word Ofsted was off the table, but little did we know it would be replaced by terms such as lockdown, spike, R number, pandemic, and bubbles! Neither did we envisage transferring our new curriculum to YouTube and MS Teams.

I am extremely proud of what we have achieved this year and the changes that have been implemented in a short space of time. We have all certainly learnt a lot, especially what we can do with the technology available. We certainly do not want to lose the new skills learnt and will look to see how we can incorporate our new ICT knowledge.

I am especially proud of our Year 6 children, who have had to forgo some of the more traditional aspects of Year 6, although the lack of SATs did leave a few children smiling! Before lockdown, this cohort of Year 6 children had worked extremely hard to consolidate their learning and that focus did not wain as learning moved online. No doubt, that dedication and focus will put them in an advantageous position as they start secondary school and all of us at Goosewell wish them the very best for their future; great things are sure to come!

In many ways, we want all children to leave Goosewell Primary Academy having achieved their best and contributed to the school in equal measures. With this in mind, and in association with Mike, Nicky and Benjamin Brown, we have introduced the *Oliver Brown Spirit of Goosewell Award*. This new award is in memory of Oliver Brown, a young man who, despite his extraordinary personal challenges, represented and set the standard of what it meant to give and to be an active participant of Goosewell Primary Academy. This year we would like to offer our congratulations to...Cianan Conlon who is the recipient of the Oliver Brown, Spirit of Goosewell Award 2020. A link to the presentation of this year's awards will follow by text.

This year can certainly be described as a year of change and no doubt you, like us, would like less change as we start the autumn term. You will have received an email outlining how we propose to start school in September with the focus of business as usual, framed by Government guidance to keep us all as safe as possible. I can ensure you that I will keep you as up to date as possible, should we encounter further changes and I would welcome feedback from yourselves, so please do email me or stop me or a member of the SLT on the gates and let us know your thoughts.

It is also the time of year when we see staff changes and unfortunately, we will be saying goodbye to the following staff:

- Mrs Grace Baldwin
- Mrs Helen Hayman
- Mrs Linda Honywill
- Miss Rebecca Hingston
- Mrs Sarah Crockett
- Mrs Marie Maxfield
- Mrs Michele Bishop

I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to these staff members, who have given their all to the children of Goosewell, racking up a combined service of 51 years! For Mrs Crockett, Mrs Hayman and Mrs Honywill, we wish them well in their retirement and we also offer good luck to Mrs Baldwin, Miss Hingston, Mrs Maxfield and Mrs Bishop who will be starting new roles.

As always, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support, and I do hope that you and your children have a safe and enjoyable summer holiday, whatever you might be doing. If you are stuck for ideas, I would always recommend hitting the surf!

With very best wishes.



James Gentile
Headteacher