

PHOENIX INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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It is Good Friday as I sit reflecting on another term passed, a term that has been just as turbulent as those which preceded it over the course of the last twelve months. We welcomed all of our children back for just one day after the Christmas break before a national lockdown forced a return to remote learning for many. As a Governing Board we understand the stress and worry this caused many of our families whether the children remained at home or continued to access a school place. No matter what your situation we all have endured some very challenging times. Whilst this lockdown is slowly being relaxed it is important for us all to remember to stick to the guidance, we have continued to have bubble closures which impact children, families and the school and need to ensure that further disruption is kept to a minimum.

I would, however, like to draw on some positives from this term. We have seen the roll out of the online learning platforms for the whole school. Whilst we have used them for short periods during bubble closures, lockdown saw this become the daily norm for staff and pupils alike - what a fantastic job everyone has done! The staff worked tirelessly to make sure that those children working from home had the best possible opportunities to learn with great support from our families who have encouraged some fabulous learning. I have particularly enjoyed the zoom sessions, watching the staff delight in seeing all their class children at home and the positive impact on the children seeing their friends and learning together. The relationship between the school and families has continued to be as strong as ever.

I cannot praise our Head Teacher Mrs Harper, Deputy Head Mrs Broad, and the staff team enough for all their hard work. This term has seen a number of staff experience ill-health and this has understandably been a worrying time for all concerned. Despite this the school has managed to present a business-as-usual approach to learning with minimal disruption to teaching. This is testament to what a fantastic team they are and how the children have continued to come first. We thank them all for their hard work and hope they have taken the opportunity to rest with their families over the Easter break.

Whilst I am giving thanks, I would also like to take the opportunity to recognise the Governing Board for their ongoing hard work. It's not easy governing a school from afar but you have worked hard to ensure all of our children have the best outcomes. This week you will see nomination forms for parent governors sent out via school. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to join our governing board and ensure there is a parent voice during meetings. If you would like to discuss what this role entails, please contact Mrs Harper or myself via the school office and we will happily talk you through what it means to be a Governor.

As always, I would like to end my letter reflecting on what amazing children we have here at Phoenix. Yet another period of significant disruption has not dulled their desire to learn and have fun - their resilience continues to astound us all. Seeing their delighted faces at the surprise appearance of the Easter Bunny reminds us of happier times we have had at school but more importantly of the happier times ahead that we can all enjoy together.

Stay safe and look after one another!

Sonya Hand Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Board.