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Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

And so it is that we reach the end of an extraordinary year and I hope that you'll indulge a personal reflection.

This has without a doubt, been the most challenging year of my career and has certainly tested my own resilience (physical, mental and emotional!) but as I reflect back on the past 5½ months I take pride in what we, as a community, have accomplished.

I don't think anyone could have predicted that, when schools were instructed to close in March, there would still be children unable to be in school in the summer. We were, and still are, dealing with an unprecedented situation and so we look to our leaders to provide the guidance and direction that we all sought; personally I have (at times) found this leadership to be severely lacking in its clarity, consistency and moral purpose.

However, I do have to ask myself: *Should I be judging the decisions made by other people without the knowledge that they hold?* Probably not. *Would I want to have to make the decisions that they make?* It's a definite 'no'.

Therefore it has fallen upon us to redress the balance; to take account of the decisions made by government and adjust them to suit the needs of the school and its community – the children, the staff and parents. What has made this easier for me, is the fact that I have never once through this process felt alone. In my role, I have the luxury of contact with a great number of fellow headteachers across Kent and whilst this has been some small support, my experience has been that the greatest support has come from the staff and parents of Bridge School. I could not have done this without you and them and I would like to extend my most heart-felt thanks and gratitude.

Whilst the past 5½ months have been difficult for us all, I don't imagine that the challenges ahead of us will be any easier. The new academic year will continue to bring its fair share of difficulties but I am confident that, together, we can overcome these with the children of Bridge School at our core.

I am hoping that you would have all read our planned protocols which have been published on the school website under the **COVID-19: The New Normal** section. As I mentioned previously, this is a working document and no doubt will be amended as time goes on.

I shall be writing a final letter next week to say farewell to our Year 6 children and staff who are moving on.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James Tibbles'.

James Tibbles



Latest Blog Posts

[READ ALL BLOGS >](#)

Below are links to some of our blog posts in the past week, we love to read your comments on them so please keep them coming.

26th June 2020



The Arrival

This week in Year 6 we have been looking at 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan - a graphic novel which illustrates the journey of a man who must leave his family to seek a better life for them in a new, unfamiliar land.

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

8th July 2020



Virtual Sports Week

Thank you so much to everyone who took part in our school's Virtual Sports Week both in school and at home. We have received lots of score sheets with some amazing scores!

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

8th July 2020



World War 2 Day

Following our studying on the Second World War, some pupils in Year 6 had a go at following an authentic recipe for cheese scones and sampled some traditional wartime sweets.

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

9th July 2020



Coralie has more work published

Coralie (6NA) has had some of her writing and more of her illustrations published on the Foundling Museum website!

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