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Wednesday 21st July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We've reached the end of another academic year which has, once again, been disrupted by the COVID pandemic and today we are saying our final farewell to a number of people including our Year 6 pupils (more on them later!)

I think that what has impressed me most about this year is that the conversations amongst the children has not primarily been about what they have lost but what they have achieved over the past year. Over the course of this year, the children have shown real resilience and a positive attitude – they are an inspiration to us all.

COVID Update

As a school we have remained relatively untouched by COVID and I put this down to a mixture of our protocols, adherence on all sides (thank you) and – I'm sure – more than a little bit of luck! At the moment, we don't quite know what September will look like – we do know that a confirmed case will now not require the closure of a class (as we found out on Monday!) however I don't doubt that there will still be a significant amount of anxiety amongst some parents.

It is very unlikely that we will be back to the time where there were no restrictions and I wouldn't be surprised if we had to reintroduce some of our COVID protocols as we get closer towards the winter months but I will be writing to all parents towards the end of August with our updated protocols.

Staff Leavers

Today we said farewell to Derek Butterworth (Caretaker), Ellen King (Bridge Bees BASC), Laura Briggs (Schools Direct Student) and Mike Beard (Year 6 Teacher). We're very sad to see them leave us but wish them all very well for the future.

Mike Beard, in particular, will be sorely missed but we are very pleased for him as he leaves us to develop his career at Aylesham School. This morning we heard from staff who had worked with him over the years including Mrs Brocklebank and Mr Murrell and ended with '*Mike Beard vs Bridge School*' on the playground based around sport and maths – a fitting tribute to Mr Beard.

Weddings

More news for celebration, over the summer holidays Mr Harris will be getting married as will Miss Maw and Mr Harvey (to each other!). Miss Maw will return as Mrs Harvey-Maw from September. I wish them all the best for their special day and married life.

Year 6 Leavers

This afternoon we said farewell to our Year 6 children. I am so pleased that we were able to offer this group of children their residential and the opportunity to perform their end-of-school production; these are more than just Year 6 experiences, they are a rite of passage and one that the children get so much from.



It is a testament to them that they have done so well with all these being so close together. I can't even imagine how tired the Year 6 children and team are after this past month – but they've been incredible. I have every confidence that, as they go on to their new schools, they will continue to show the creativity, excellence and resilience that they have impressed us all with.

[Have a Good Summer](#)

All that remains is for me to wish you all a fantastic summer break with a personal thank you from me. Over this past year, your support and understanding has made what has sometimes felt like an impossible job a little bit easier. None of us can tell what the next year will bring but I am confident that, by working together as we have done, our children will continue to thrive.

Term starts again on Thursday 2nd September – I'll see you all then.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Tibbles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'J' and 'T'.