Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We cannot finish this term without saying a few thankyous and goodbyes. A school community is not built upon a few individuals, but is the sum of the hard work of a whole team. Here our team consists of a fantastic staff, wonderful parents and carers and of course amazing children! I know that the staff will join me in a big thank you for your support, good wishes and good cheer, during what has been totally unprecedented times. Many tasks in school are new, but generally you are building from a basis of an old or relatively familiar system. With Covid-19 we had nothing to base our response or planning upon. Guidance came to us on the TV and documents flew into school by email at any time of the night or day. (generally, just after midnight each night!)

But through it all everyone raised a smile and did their best, both adults and children. There is no doubt that it was stressful and not knowing what was to come made things so much harder for all parties, but we made it and we’re all here to tell the tale and to come back in September.

We are so looking forward to our return to school, I know for some children and families it will be a bit daunting after such a break. Please be assured everything is in place for the return and we will be working with you all to make the transition back into school as smooth as possible. You will see from our plan for September that the return will be very much about building our school community and supporting all learners to adjust and feel confident about being back in school. Once settled we will be looking at where and if we need to plan for a catch-up curriculum and putting in support to deliver this. It will be a tailored approach for your child/ren with very much the message of meeting the needs of all, whatever those needs may be. Wellbeing and emotional support will be very high up on our agenda, planning for this is already underway and this will remain our priority as a golden thread throughout the year to come.

Classrooms will look a little different, routines will have been altered, but Monkton will be Monkton and the staff will be here to support our children and families all the way.

Of course, the end of a school year inevitably means saying goodbye to our Year 6s. We wish them all the very best of luck in their new schools and hope that they take everything that they have learnt here at Monkton and use this to shine in everything they do in the future. We also have two staff members leaving us this term. Miss Handley will be moving to another school in

September and we wish her the very best as she takes up a post with her new Year 4 class. In addition, Mrs Jewell will also be leaving us at the end of this term. Mrs Jewell has decided that she would like to devote some time to her young family before her youngest child starts school. We wish her the very best and much enjoyment as she takes a break from her school career.

Of course, as Year 6 move onto their new schools, we then welcome new entrants into Class 1. These children will be with us from the first day on September 2nd and we cannot wait for them to join us here at Monkton School. They too will have a graduated induction into school with an emphasis on familiarisation and wellbeing in the early days.

In conclusion, please enjoy the holidays. I hope that you all get a break and are able to take time out from work, and dare I say it, Home Learning! The school guidance and protocols will be in operation from our return date of Wednesday 2nd September. Should anything change in the meantime then I will be back in touch with all families to let you know.

Please do take care to stay safe and well,

With kindest regards,



Mrs Karon Wilson

Head of School/Inclusion Manager