



Roundhouse Way, Newhall, Harlow, Essex CM17 9SF

Telephone: 01279 215480 Email: office@newhallacademy.org Website: www.newhallacademy.org

Headteacher: Mrs Charmaine Ward BA (Hons) QTS, NPQH

Nursery Manager: Mrs Stef Montgomery BA (Hons) EYP

Date: 18.12.2020

Dear parent/carer,

End of Autumn Term letter from the headteacher

The end of the first term in an academic year is always a good time to reflect and evaluate what we've achieved as a school and what could be further developed when we return in the new year.

This week saw our Reception children take a little walk down the road to post their letters to Santa and sing carols around the Christmas tree which has been placed outside our local coffee shop. This seemingly small activity gave us all a sense of hope for the future. Hope that to some degree we will soon be able to once again provide our children with the offsite visits and learning they so enjoy and so rightfully deserve.

We have managed to reach the end of this 15week Autumn Term without a single positive case of covid-19 amongst our pupils or staff. We have been extremely fortunate as this has enabled us to provide our children with the maximum number of days to consistently support their learning and progress as well as providing them with the stability they need from their school.

It has not been easy for the staff and I, especially with the constant reminders of 'do's and don'ts' within a second lockdown period and effectively managing the expectations of our Risk Management document. However, we cannot thank you all enough for being extremely understanding and supportive throughout the term. Your messages of encouragement and thanks have gone a long way in supporting staff wellbeing over the past three months. We also can't thank you enough for assisting us in curbing outbreaks by informing us when family members presented with symptoms and allowing us to protect the wider community by acting swiftly and decisively whenever it was necessary.

All our children have made good progress from their starting points in September. I feel it needs to be said that they love their school and seeing them come in every day with the broadest of smiles; happy to see their primary and nursery teachers and friends each morning, is without a doubt one of the main contributors to their academic, social and emotional development to date. They know that their school is a happy, safe place away from home, especially at this unsettled time.

Notwithstanding the various challenges social distancing has brought, the staff and PTA were extremely pleased to be able to plan a wide range of extra-curricular activities which included the annual Remembrance Appeal, the Book Fair, Young Minds 'Yellow' Day, Harvest Collection, Children in Need, the sponsored walk to Lapland, the Christmas Card/Gift fundraiser, a Virtual Panto and various Christmas activities. Not only have you encouraged your children to come to school, but you have engaged in our varied activities and given generously to others who are in the most need.

I am so proud of our entire school community and I could not have asked for my first term as substantive headteacher at Newhall Primary Academy and Nursery to be more enjoyable.

It is my wish that we are all able to relax and hopefully spend some good quality time together with family and friends over this festive season.

On behalf of the governors and staff, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you all in January.

With best wishes,

Charmaine Ward

