

**Headteacher: Mr D Childs**

12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents,

This week, my letter to you all will be slightly different. It will be me trying my best to articulate my utmost gratitude to you all.

Before I begin, I have attached our remote learning plan to you all so you are aware of the changes we are making to our provision after half term. This was also summarised in last week's letter. I would also like to give you some information about future workshops that we have booked for our children (and parents!).

### **Workshops**

On the back of the success of our workshops and themed events, I do have some extremely exciting announcements about future events, but in the style of entertainment television, I am going to wait until after half term to let you know more details about what we have managed to arrange to keep you all in suspense! I am sure that these workshops will be enjoyed by parents as well as children. Where we can, we will also record the sessions so that they can be accessed at a later time. It is really important to us that we keep supporting children's mental health so we are very happy to be in the position to offer these workshops. I would like to thank the PTFA for their ongoing funding for these events.

### **Thank you**

At the start of the term, we sent out our plans to try and make sure that our school approach was:

- Meaningful for the children
- Manageable for staff, parents and children
- Fair and accessible for all
- Flexible and adaptable

Throughout the term, we listened to feedback, reviewed and made improvements, taking into account the needs of the whole community. We understood and accepted the fact it would be impossible for us to operate in the way that we wanted to and also accepted that it would be impossible to cater to every individual circumstance. What we have tried to do, is to make the absolute best of the situation we are in. Over the past 6 weeks, we have completely redesigned our approach to children's learning. We have introduced new ideas and continue to try and be as innovative as possible to support our children. As with any changes, we know that we will not always get everything right first time but it is in our school DNA to keep reflecting until we do. Your feedback and support has been a vital part of that and this is where I would like to begin my thank you.

Over the past 6 weeks, many of you have taken the time to phone, email or speak to members of the staff team to thank them for their efforts. This really does mean a great deal to us, especially at a time when we may not be as aware as we usually are about the impact on our children and families.

The time you have taken to offer your kind words and messages is really appreciated. For this, I would like to thank you for giving the staff that extra spring in their step or that extra bit of motivation needed to get through a difficult day.

I would also like to thank the countless number of you that have also made great sacrifices to adjust your life in order to support us as a school. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is not something that we ever take for granted and we know that many of you have gone to great lengths to continue to support, not only your own children, but the community in general. For this, we are all, as a school family, extremely grateful.

Throughout the global pandemic, we know that many of you have needed to send your children to school, despite it being a greater risk to do so. Your critical work to keep the country going during this period is appreciated by us all.

I do want to spend a large part of this letter also thanking the majority of you that have supported your children at home through engaging with remote learning. For the past 6 weeks, you have been put in the position of having to be parent, friend and teacher (and possibly many more roles) to your child (ren). We are under no illusion that trying to do this, especially if you are having to work also, is challenging to say the least. I am sure that there have been many ups and downs over the past few weeks, and many challenges to overcome, but you have all done brilliantly and should be really proud of what you have managed to achieve. I monitor the google classroom pages every day and can see what a tremendous effort you have all made. Please make sure that you take some time over the half term to celebrate these successes and achievements because it is richly deserved.

We often refer to the 'Ryarsh family' in our school and I have no doubt that working together as a family will be a crucial part of our future successes together.

Have the best half-term possible,

Daniel Childs and the team at Ryarsh Primary School