

Dear Parents and Carers,

Just two more days now before the children can enjoy their summer break.

It's certainly been another year we won't be forgetting for some time.

It's been better than the previous one but still very challenging and, at times, frustrating.

Can I take this opportunity once again to thank you for your continued support. It has been a very unusual time. None of us every thought we would be wearing masks on the yard and in school. I never thought I'd be asking you to line up on the yard, keep away from each other, keep your child off at any sign of a cough etc.

We've done all we could to keep everyone safe and this would not have been possible without you following our guidance and instructions, so thank you.

We're still not sure what September will look like but I can assure you that we will continue to do all we can to keep our school community safe.

To date we've only had 3 cases since March 2020 which have impacted on our bubbles. I feel that is remarkable and is due to parents being vigilant and not sending children in if they were in doubt, as well as the measures we have had in place in school to try to stop any infection spreading. Let's hope that next year things can start to settle down!

Academic Year 2021-2022

Arrangements for next year have not been confirmed yet. We have started to formulate a plan. We're hoping that a lot of things can get back to normal. The government have said that we do not have to operate a bubble system unless there is a rise in cases within certain groups. We'll check the guidance again towards the end of August before sharing our plan with you.

I can say at this point that staff have met to discuss what aspects of the changes we have made this year that they would like to keep and what we'd like to change so whatever the plan is, we will not be reverting to how things used to be. You will see some changes and hopefully they will mirror what you have liked about the last year too.

I will email all parents before the end of August to explain starting times, finishing times, entrances, exits etc. Please watch out for that email.

I can confirm that our first day back is Wednesday 1st September.

School Reports

Your child's end of year report will be emailed after school on Monday.

Due to so many being sent out at one time, we have staggered the delivery of these so please don't worry if you receive one child's report and not another's. They should all be delivered in your mail box by the end of Monday night, as long as you are on the Schoolcomms system.

Retirement

Mrs Trewick has decided to retire at the end of this academic year. She has worked at our school for over 17 years but has had connections with it, through her children, for about 25 years. She has worked across KS1 and KS2 but spent her final years in Y1. I know that many of the children have benefitted from the support she has offered and we would like to take this opportunity to wish her all the best. She has travel plans, but I suspect she will continue to support our school on occasions too, so luckily it won't be the last we will see of her.

We also have a wedding taking place tomorrow. Mr McIntosh has had to postpone his wedding but will finally get to tie the knot tomorrow. I am sure you will join me in sending him best wishes for his special day.

Can I also take this opportunity to thanks Mrs Sant who came to us as at short notice to teach one of our Y4 classes for the last half term. The children settled very quickly and Mrs Sant ensured that the impact of



the changes the class have had has been minimised as much as possible. She will return to Lanchester E. P. in September.

Year 6 and transition across the school

Our Y6 will have their last day with us on Tuesday. They have had a lovely end to their year at primary school and we wish them all the best as they progress to secondary school. We are certainly proud of all they have achieved during their time with us.

Meanwhile the rest of the children will have met their new teacher today. We arranged for them to meet outside, to keep things as safe as possible, so they will have had chance to speak to their teacher and find out about a few things they will be enjoying next year.

Year 2 Moving on Assembly

It has not been possible for this to take place 'live' but the Y2 children have been busy preparing their contributions for this and we will email Y2 parents next week when the link goes live on our YouTube channel.

We hope you enjoy that.

End of Year Song

As said, it's not been a usual year. You've missed seeing many live performances but I am sure have appreciated being able to access them on YouTube.

We have one final treat for you this year. We have final filming taking place today then, following final editing, we hope to be sharing our whole school end of year song with you on Tuesday.

Again, I will send the link to you and we hope you enjoy that.

Reading Books

We would like to have all the reading books returned to school before the end of term. If you've already done this, thank you very much, if not, can you please ensure that your child brings all books in from home on Monday so that we can get them shelved and tidied ready for the start of the new year.

Please feel free to access all the various websites during the holidays to keep your child's brain ticking over and if you can, access the public library so that they keep reading.

Chromebooks/iPads

Thanks to all the Y6 who have returned what they have borrowed. For all other families who still have an iPad or Chromebook on loan we are happy for you to keep these as the children may want to get onto the various websites we use in school over the holidays, and they will continue to need them next year for home learning. If your situation changes and you no longer need it, please just return devices to school at your earliest convenience.

Monday will see the Lower School enjoying their Fun Day and Upper School taking part in their walk from Craster to Embleton.

Tuesday will be a normal day in school, then the holidays will begin.

Don't forget, if you want to show your appreciation to your child's teacher we encourage you not to buy gifts but instead to write your thanks in a card.

Well, it only remains for me to wish you all the best for the summer break and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on 1st September and wish Y6 well for their first day at secondary school.

Kay Hemmings
Head Teacher

