



Castlefields Primary School, Castlefields, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 5DQ

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**Head Teacher:** Mrs R Lee

9<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, it is nearly half term, and what a time it has been. On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January we welcomed your lovely children back into Castlefields school, not knowing that later on that evening we would be having to close our doors again. It was such a difficult time and we all had to adapt to the change rapidly, something that is tricky to do at the best of times.

To say the past six weeks have been challenging would be a complete understatement for us all. However, I do not want to dwell on the difficulties we faced, I wish to celebrate the successes and the cause for hope. I am so proud of the way that our school adapted to remote learning. Yes, there were some bumpy starts, and yes, we had to adapt things to make it work for the majority of our school community. As we frequently tell the children, we are all still learners, but everyone has pulled together and has made it work as well as it can. Thank you.

I am proud of the way that parents and carers have been able to maintain the communication with the adults in school. We care deeply about your children and have always wanted to support them. This is not limited to academic support. As educators, we realise that children cannot work if they are unhappy. We know the impact that the pandemic has had on young people and have worked to introduce Teams meetings, so that children can begin to socialise again with their classmates. This has been wonderful to see and hear about.

I am proud of the amazing amount of quality work that has taken place over the past weeks. Remote learning is difficult. Humans are sociable beings, and we thrive when we can communicate with each other. The way that our children have adapted to remote learning has been incredible, and the effort, enthusiasm and resilience that comes through in their work should be celebrated. These are skills for life!

We have also had positives within school. Our Christmas trees seem to be thriving in this weather, and when the children return to school, they will be able to go out and see them. We look forward to watching them grow, year on year, and remember the strange Christmas where we couldn't all be together in the hall.

We have taken the opportunity, while there are fewer children in school, to tackle some of the "jobs" that we normally have to leave until the summer holidays. Almost exactly a year after Storm Dennis hit our school, we have finally been able to get the Year 6 lobby area and the Year 6 classroom ceiling redecorated. Anyone who has sat in the Year 6 classroom for the past year will have noticed the water damage - which has



finally been painted over. Our caretaker, Dave Hodgson has done a marvellous job of removing the lockers outside Year 6, replacing them with brightly coloured pegs. He has painted in the Year 5 and Year 4 classrooms too. He has now turned his attention to the Year 3 lockers. These are being replaced with pegs, ready for when the children return.

We have worked hard to update our IT equipment, and have a new IT technician, Joel, who is doing a super job of fixing broken laptops. We have also invested in new iPads for our Early Years and Key Stage One children. We are hoping these will be ready for when the children return.

As I write this letter, I am still uncertain about what next half term will bring. You can rest assured that we will continue to listen to you and to support you all in any ways that we can. Castlefields Primary School is incredible, and I feel proud and honoured to work in such a community spirited school.

Please take care over half term.

Mrs Lee