



Dear Children,

Next week is the Summer holiday and there will be no children in school. I hope you continue to share special times with your families. Perhaps you are going on a long awaited holiday or are looking forward to days out. Whatever you are up to I hope you have lots of fun, because, let's face it, this has been a year like no other.

What has been happening in the world is part of history. One of the greatest challenges our country has faced since the Second World War. In fact one day, many years from now, people are going to look back and they are going to ask you what it was like to live through lockdown. You will be able to talk with pride of the lives you helped save, and the sacrifices you have made.

Many of you have spent the last few months away from Brooklands. Brooklands has become much quieter and much emptier than we are so used to. It has been the strangest of times and also a very special time. Strange, because it is different and unexpected but also incredibly special because we have connected in ways that perhaps we never knew we could.

For others, you have been in school because your parents do important jobs and have kept our country going – doctors, nurses, teachers as well as delivery drivers, supermarket workers, refuse collectors and carers. Perhaps you have been inspired to want to help others. Maybe you have been inspired by the scientists working on possible treatments and vaccines, or the news reporters reporting on what's happening.

Thank you for how adaptable you have been. You have spent many weeks, away from your friends and your teachers who care so much about each one of you. You have shown huge resilience and strength. You have been working hard completing the learning activities set by your teachers. You have also used this time to make memories with your families at home, trying new things from paddle boarding to fishing and enthusiastically pursuing interests such as cooking.

Whether it's been a personal message on ClassDojo, cards in the post, a short video clip or seeing you over Zoom, your teachers have loved hearing what you have been up to. You have entertained us in so many ways with appearances in our very own soap opera 'Palfrey Heights', to entering 'Brooklands Got Talent' and 'Bake Off'

There have also been wonderful stories of kindness and generosity. I have been touched by the creative and caring ways you have responded. You have risen to the challenge and gone above and beyond, energised by the desire to make a difference. The countless acts of kindness have been overwhelming. We have seen so many examples of this from you bringing a smile to neighbours and friends by creating rainbow pictures and sticking them in windows, to Year 6 raising a whopping £830 for Cancer Research.

While this stage of your life is drawing to a close, the really exciting bit is yet to come, a time when we are all back together again. The qualities that you forged during the lockdown, empathy, resilience, self-discipline, patience and those are qualities we're going to need in September as we head back to school. Bring enthusiasm and energy to everything that you do. Be that friend, that team member, who is always there to lend a hand. Take time to ask others how they are doing. Be kind to all those around you, and when you look around look for the good.

It is understandable that it will feel quite strange at first. There will be new rules to follow and classrooms will look different. However, I look forward to seeing our classrooms filled once more with your smiles and your friendships. You will learn and laugh together again. You will support each other in the ways you always have.

You may have worries, your grown-ups may have similar worries and it is important to share these with the people around you. Continue to ask the questions that puzzle you and talk honestly about how you feel.

I can't wait to see you all, along with some new faces as we welcome Giraffes, Miss Storey and Miss King to Brooklands.

Have a great Summer,

Miss Davy