

*16th July 2021*

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the academic year, I want to respond to the magnificent support the school has received from parents and carers throughout the year, but particularly in these last, testing weeks of the summer term. Support has come in many forms, including emails, letters, verbal comments, bouquets of flowers, not to mention the box of beer which was delivered to my office this afternoon from some anonymous person or group; many thanks whoever you are and I assure you it has remained unopened so far!

It is hard to adequately communicate in writing, just how much my staff have relied on this support and the difference it has made. It has been so difficult to have to send so many of our pupils and staff into isolation, over and over again, to manage communications to parents and to ensure we continue to offer a good service when half of a year group is in school and the other half at home.

We all appreciate just how difficult this must also have been for our families, particularly when an email comes in late on a Sunday evening or early on a school day morning and you have to suddenly juggle work and childcare and a dozen other things at such short notice. Every time this crisis puts our community to the test, it seems that we are more than a match for it and this is down to the mutual kindness and respect which exists within this community and which is so in keeping with our school values.

You will no doubt have read Mr Sheriff's recent letter which underlined the fact that we will continue with all our current Covid restrictions and protocols until the end of term. This will include identifying close contacts of a confirmed, positive case and self-isolation. One of my biggest fears is that our Y6 children are sent home before the end of next week, thus missing out on their 'last day' and everything associated with it. I also have no wish to impose a 10-day isolation on any staff, pupil or parent/carer which might interfere with holiday plans. To this end, we are suspending all activities next week which might increase the number of pupils identified as close contacts, should we have another positive case.

As you know, there will be many changes to the way the school operates from September. These will include the ending of the current staggered start and finish times and the ending of the practice of sending close contacts home. I will be sending a letter home next week which will provide all the details.

I hope you all enjoy a sunny and restful weekend,

Kind regards, Tim Broad

