



Cuddington Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs S Mills

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Dear Parents and families of all our children,

As with us all, this past 4 months have been incredibly challenging professionally and personally. Without notice, our worlds significantly changed with only an 'unknown' in our futures. Many of you know how devastated school staff were that schools had to close to the majority of children but Team Cuddington galvanised quickly and tried our best to guide each other through the COVID 19 storm.

We had no time to reflect and carefully shape how our provision would look – instead we immediately got down to the business of supporting all our children in accessing work at home whilst their parents worked under equally difficult circumstances.

The positive memory from this situation will be how proud I am of our school community; how proud I am of our children; how proud I am of our parents; how proud I am of my staff. Parent feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and I thank you for this. That said, there will have been things we could have done better, but we did our best.

So, what can we learn about this experience?

- We can achieve so much by working together
- We are resilient and flexible
- We have learned what is truly important to us
- We know how important schools are within our communities – education cannot be taken for granted and not anyone can be a teacher.

There have been many occasions where I have had to work beyond where I feel comfortable. I cannot count the number of times I have said 'Can you hear me' or 'You're on mute!' Zoom meetings are now the new normal – I hadn't heard of Zoom before March!

This morning, we held our first virtual Year 6 leaver's assembly. Miss Norris, Mr Caldwell and Miss Michiels supported our year 6 to lead their assembly with a 'Lockdown Leavers' rap, a poem about each other, aspirations for when they grow up and photos from their beginnings to now. We were nervous that it might not work – but it did 😊

As I said goodbye to our Year 6, I also recognise that for many of our families it will be the last time that they are part of Team Cuddington. We say goodbye to the following families; Downing, Eslick, Lee, Relph, Robinson, Cheswick, Crickmore-Clarke, Giles, Haythorne, Leigh, Mason, Mullin, Perry, Roe, Thompson, Watkins, Weedall and Whittaker. Remember us as you move to your next 'Team' and we wish every success in all of your futures.



We are so excited to welcome back our current Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5. It will be perfect to have ALL children back together again, albeit in their 'bubbles.' I have information for all the families in these year groups (and Reception and Year 1) about our plans to bring everyone back. Something to really look forward to.

Thank you for working with us to make the last 5 weeks a success back in school whether you have attended for memory sessions and transition sessions only or you have been part of the chosen year groups to return. It has only been a success because you have supported us.

Thank you to all my staff who have played their part in securing many positive outcomes for all our children and families. Each member of staff at Cuddington has demonstrated a strong team ethic, with our cleaners being so important and other staff appreciating this importance as they have had to also take on the roles of cleaning in their classrooms. My staff need a well earned break away from school, they need to spend time with their own friends and families and I wish them a peaceful and restful break.

My final thanks is to our wonderful children. Individuals who have had to find their way 'emotionally and socially' through a time when we should have been together. Some have found their way through ok, others have needed help and others will continue to need help as we begin a journey on our 'Recovery Road.'

If we do this together then all will be well with Team Cuddington.

Who knows what the summer holidays will bring, but I know I will look forward to the time when we are all together once more.

Be kind to yourselves and each other,

Kind regards,

Mrs Sue Mills