



22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents,

As the Summer Term comes to a close, I thought that I would take the opportunity to write to you to thank you for your continued support across what has been a very challenging year for our children, staff and each school community. During this period our school leaders, Dan Polak, Rob Norton, Lucy Ratcliffe and Corrinne Smith have continued to show great determination to overcome the challenges placed before them always putting the children first in all their decision making. At a time when so many school leaders are leaving the profession we are very fortunate to have a group that are so invested in their schools.

Despite the many challenges that Covid-19 has brought us our staff have continued to ensure that the children have had access to a broad and balanced curriculum. It has been a real joy to see school residential visits and 'Big Event' trips taking place again. These things do not happen without the dedication of committed staff members who are willing to put in the extra hours so the children have an excellent experience. Two members of staff who really stand out for their dedication and commitment to the children of Pilton Bluecoat Academy and Brayford Academy are Ann Gregory and Sheila Crump both of whom are retiring at the end of the term. Ann has worked at Pilton Bluecoat for over 26 years and during that time has continued to demonstrate great skill when supporting children, teachers and families in need. On behalf of TEAM, I would like to wish both Ann and Shelia all the very best as they start a new chapter in their lives.

Our central team members led by Briony Parsons have continued to work hard behind the scenes making sure that our schools are clean, safe and have the all the resources for the children to receive high quality teaching and learning. We are very fortunate within our Multi-Academy Trust to have such an experienced central team and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication to the cause.

Our trustees along with the local governing body of each school have voluntarily given up many hours to ensure our school leaders, staff and children have been well supported through the pandemic. Sadly, Sue Davies, one of our more experienced trustees will be stepping down after many years of service. Sue has, year on year, continued to be a great support to our school leadership teams and her wealth of experience, particularly when it comes to safeguarding will be greatly missed. She



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has informed me this week that she will not be disappearing completely and will continue to visit some of our schools to carry out some drama lessons.

I have, over the past academic year, found myself reflecting on what it must have been like to be a primary aged child living through the past 18 months. Covid-19 has brought with it a variety of issues many of which have been dealt with or managed. I am however under no illusion that as we progress into the new academic year our schools will have to continue to be vigilant, not only to ensure that the children catch up with lost learning but more importantly that we address the impact the pandemic has had on their mental wellbeing. This is something that will be at the top of our list moving forward.

Finally, I would like to thank each one of our children across TEAM Multi-Academy trust for continuing to demonstrate great perseverance and for continuing to be a source of great joy to our staff. It is the children that bring each school to life, and it is my wish that each one of them has a wonderful summer break returning to school in September ready for a brand new academic year that has no Covid-19 related interruptions.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Thomas'.

Mr Thomas