



## **End of year letter to parents/carers**

Dear Parents/Carers

The end of this school year has been very different to the usual. This end of year letter is to provide you with some information and to celebrate the amazing support from our pupils, parents and staff.

Over the last few months the school and wider community have worked tirelessly to provide support for all our pupils. In June we opened the hub at Victoria to support our vulnerable and key worker children and the pupils were in family groups and we were very proud of how well they managed to social distance and be taught in a different way than they were used to. Since lockdown we have provided extensive pastoral support for children and families. We would like to thank parents and carers for managing the last few months and supporting your children with their online learning and array of activities that you planned with your child, we thank you for engaging with the staff during telephone contact and emails.

We would also like to thank all the staff at Victoria School for their efforts to ensure children were able to access the online learning, telephone contacts and providing home learning packs. Not forgetting our cleaners, admin and safeguarding team who have ensured that we could operate during such a challenging time. None of us anticipated the circumstances with which we were forced to adapt, we are very proud of what we have accomplished together.

The support we have received from parents, carers and the local community has been unimaginable and we have certainly strengthened as a community. Our children have had to adapt to a new way of learning at home. They have shown resilience and persevered whilst being at home and we have been extremely proud of them.

The additional letter that has been sent to parents/ carers outlines our plans in preparation for opening on 1<sup>st</sup> September when all pupils are expected to return to school. We ask you to take time to read this I hope you can see that all our plans have been based on government guidance and, most importantly, keeping everyone safe through these uncertain times.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our new pupils and families to Victoria and we are sure that they will enjoy their education with us. We have really missed seeing our pupils each day but we were so proud to see all the amazing posts on Facebook.

Thank you to our parents/ carers for supporting our transition days in meeting their new teacher, this was only for the new year one, two and three pupils. We understand that some of our pupils, especially our younger pupils or those with specific needs may need more time to settle into their new nursery or class in September and we are happy to discuss this and support your child in returning and feeling safe and confident.

From September you may have noticed we have changed our class names to the names of mountains in the Lake District as we think is an important part of celebrating that we live on the edge of a national park.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our year two pupils all the best for their next phase in education. We have not been able to have all our usual celebration and events but hopefully we can plan something in the new academic year to say goodbye. We hope you enjoyed your hoodies as a memory of your time with us.

We will keep you up to date of any changes or information during the summer and please continue to access our website [www.victoriaschool.org](http://www.victoriaschool.org) for information.

As we come to the end of another academic year we have some staff who will be moving on. We would like to say a great big thank you and good luck to those staff. Mrs Straughton, who has worked in the school for over twenty years as a Senior Teaching Assistant will be retiring. Miss Fennessy will be leaving to train to be a Primary School Teacher at Cumbria Teacher Training. Miss Speakes is going on maternity leave and we wish her well. We would like to welcome Mr Parker, who trained as an apprentice and is now a Teaching Assistant in Nursery, Mrs Ross will be working as a Teaching Assistant in the early years and Miss Scott who taught on the junior site will be moving to the infant site as a year one Teacher.

On behalf of myself and the Governors we are looking forward to seeing you in September and we hope that you have an enjoyable summer.

Kind regards

Mrs V Hepburn-Fish

Headteacher