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Head Teacher: Dr Andy Williams

July 19<sup>th</sup> 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you at the end of the school year for two main reasons. The first is to pass on a really big thank you from all the staff for your help and support over the course of the last year. Your kind comments and encouragement do genuinely mean a lot to us - we will not always get everything right, but we will always be trying to do this, and we appreciate the faith and trust you put in us.

The second reason for writing is to update you a little on our recent parent consultation event. We had a good turnout, despite the clash with the England match, and I enjoyed the discussions that took place - we hope that those attending also found the event worthwhile.

Accompanying this letter are three documents that we referred to that evening. We promised copies for those attending, but also said that we would send out copies to other families who were not able to join us. The three documents are:

1. A paper which summarises the outcomes of our recent survey of parental opinion. The paper shows the breakdown of parental opinions on each of the issues we asked you about and where parents wrote additional comments, we have put them in bullet point form at the end. There were 19 returns from a possible 24 families, and in overall terms staff were pleased with the judgements and comments of parents. As always there are things to work upon and the questionnaire is influencing decisions on actions that will be incorporated into the school development plan.
2. A copy of a powerpoint presentation that Mrs Brook and I used to summarise key developments in the school this year.
3. A paper which lists some of the issues which we want to start consulting parents about. These consultations are not yet structured, but by mentioning the issues we hope that parents will start to collect their thought together. During the September term we will let you know how you can contribute to the consultations and help shape policy and strategy for the future.

We spoke a little at the consultation event about some of the challenges the school had faced. Concern over finance, Ofsted outcomes, and temporary leadership had contributed to some uncertainty about the future of the school. Over the last year everyone has worked hard to stabilise things at the school. We have been working our way through systems and policies to try to refresh every aspect of the work of the school. New staff have come in, as have many new governors. Pupil numbers are up and our financial situation has been stabilised. There is still much to be done but we do feel that the school is in a better place.



From comments made, and the questionnaire returns, it appears everyone is in agreement that we must do everything we can to safeguard the future of this lovely village school. There is no reason why in the modern educational world, that small village schools cannot thrive, and we must redouble our efforts to make sure that is the case here.

For my own part I have really enjoyed the opportunity I have had of a new challenge at this stage of my career. It has been a pleasure to work with younger children and to get to know the community. I look forward to next school year to build upon the work we have done. Beyond that, from September 2019 onwards, governors know that I will be standing down as Head Teacher. My job was to help stabilise and address some of the more immediate issues - we are well on with that now. I will continue to be involved in the work of the school after this date, but in a voluntary capacity, providing support and hopefully some experience in whatever capacity the school needs it. Governors will use next year to identify and establish the long term leadership solution the school will need.

Thank you again for all your support and may we wish you a lovely restful and relaxing summer holiday. Children return on Tuesday September 4<sup>th</sup> - we look forward to seeing you then.

Yours faithfully,

Andy Williams