Dear Parents/Carers,

Today brings to a close one of the strangest academic years I have faced during my time in education. Little did we know what the year would hold when we set out in September! The worries and concerns we had then about what would come in the academic year ahead probably pale into insignificance now and may seem trivial by comparison.

It has been a difficult second half to this school year, the uncertainty of closing, the need to revamp what education was going to look like and the ‘will they, won’t they’ nature of schools reopening. I am sure many hopes have been raised and dashed, many frustrations have been developed and new anxieties caused. You may feel your children have had something robbed from them this year, opportunities taken away.

However, I am not writing this letter to be negative. In fact, I am writing to the complete opposite effect. As I have said to Year 6 as they left today – they may have had trips and experiences robbed from them by the current circumstances, but nothing can rob them of what makes them special and amazing. The same is true for every single child in this school. They still have the same unique talents and skills, the same enthusiasm and drive, the same kindness of spirit - all of the things that make them wonderful citizens as well as learners. These are the important skills – and these are the skills no one can take away. As we end this school year, I am confident.

I am confident our children will bounce back.

I am confident you, as parents, have done an amazing job over the last few months.

I am confident this generation will not be lost to education as many would have you believe.

I am confident everything that makes the children amazing remains in them.

I am confident we can support and build the children back up.

I am confident in our community.

The road ahead is not completely clear. There may still be changes to come, and the school we return to in September will not look the same as the one we left in March – not on the surface. But inside, it remains the same – a heart that beats for every child and wills them to do well. That has not, and will not, change.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday, and we cannot wait to welcome all children back in September, all being well. Thank you for everything you have done this year.

Alastair