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Pen Mill Infant & Nursery Academy

17th July 2020

To our Pen Mill families,

We have made it through a school year like no other, we have struggled through a range of emotions and challenges but all successfully got to the end together. The support and messages from you the parents have really helped to keep us going this year and we are very grateful.

I am feeling sad that we have not had our usual end of term fun together but glad that we are all safe and ready to enjoy our summer with our loved ones.

To all of our Infants, who have impressed us so much this year, you have exceeded our expectations. With very little notice, you have followed new rules, adapted to the new normal and walked half a mile just to enter the school! We are SO proud of you all and thank you for filling the school once again with laughter, chat and busyness.

It has been lovely to see so many children back in school since June and most importantly for us all it has felt safe. The children have enjoyed being back with their friends and teachers. For those who have needed to shield we have loved seeing and talking to you through teams. We look forward to a safe return to school in September for us all.

The online learning has been a new way of working for us all and for those of you who kept going until the last week I have great admiration, well done. We are meeting on Monday during Inset to learn how to use an online system called 'Seesaw' which will help us to improve online learning if we ever enter a time like this again. It is an online tool for our older children, much like Tapestry but it allows us to set daily tasks and give feedback immediately. The teachers can upload short lessons, assemblies and the children can communicate with one another through a safe environment monitored by the teacher.

It was lovely to see so many year twos over the last two weeks and they enjoyed their mini sports day with Mr Shire on Thursday, thank you to the 'Friends of Pen Mill' for funding the leaving gift of the 'Unworry Book' that was very fitting for the year of 2020. We all wish them good luck in their new school and want them to be reminded that they are truly an incredible group of children who are destined for great things.

I want to end by thanking all the staff and governors at Pen Mill, we are a great school who endeavour to provide the best care and education for our pupils. We are always seeking ways to improve and welcome any feedback that will help us to make changes for September, please do not hesitate to get in touch throughout the summer, our Pen Mill inbox will be checked throughout the holiday. I will also resend reminders of September return the week before school starts as I know so many of you will be busy and September seems a long way away.

Have a wonderful Summer, stay safe and give hugs to those wonderful children of yours from myself and the team.

Take care

Mrs Manning