Dear Parents and Carers,

We can’t believe it is already time to reflect on another academic year and a year that strangely doesn’t feel ‘done’. It is certainly a year we won’t forget…

The academic year began with many ‘good times’. Year 3 settled very well into our school family and we were soon enjoying annual events like trips, anti bullying week, class assemblies, parents evenings, Christmas performances, church services, raising aspirations week, Arthog, wax work museum and book week. Of course we also had our exciting visit from Virgin Balloons and hit the front page of the Shropshire Star!

Shortly after our balloon experience news broke that schools would be closing and lockdown commenced…. We can’t put into words how incredibly proud we are of the way our school family have coped with the unprecedented challenges that we have faced since March. We both feel truly honoured to be part of Team NJS and recognise more than ever what a special family it is to be a part of.

School has remained ‘open’ since the 23rd March for the children of keyworkers and staff have even worked through the school holidays to sustain this provision. Staff committed to the return of Year 6 and we have enabled every Year 6 child who wishes to return to do so. We have maintained a remote learning offer and consistent communication with our families to support everyone, whether they be at home or in school, as best we can.

Like yourselves; the staff have battled ill health, concerns for their own friends and family, the emotions of being in lockdown and ‘juggling’ a challenging personal life with a demanding professional life. We believe they have done this faultlessly…. They have regularly gone over and above to support each other and to do their very best for our children. We cannot ever thank them enough and hope each and every one of them realise how appreciated they truly are.

Our children are incredible… they have learnt new skills, kept us positive and given our school family a purpose to do what we do. We cannot wait to have them back in school. Parents and carers you have been amazing: you have learnt to be ‘teachers’ and have achieved things with your children that have left us in awe.

Collectively we have all worked to do the very best we can in the circumstances. No one can ask for anymore than ‘doing your best’ and this is exactly what our school family have achieved.

We would like to wish our Year 6 children the very best of luck for their next stage of education. You are a wonderful cohort of young people and we know you will have a very successful future ahead of you.

September will bring the next phase of ‘reopening’ with mixed feelings of excitement and nervousness being very normal amongst us all;  however, we believe that the measures and changes we have put in place for September have made the school a safe place for your child to return to.  We ask (again!) for your support in order to make this the success that our children deserve.  Please speak positively to your children about school and reassure them that it remains and safe and happy place for them  to learn.

During the coming weeks and months should you ever be unsure about anything please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you need to communicate your concerns or fears as we adjust to this new COVID 19 world.  Lastly, Newport CE Junior School continues to be a very special place in which all members of it’s family show compassion, courage and community spirit.

Have a lovely Summer and we can’t wait to see you in September.

Mrs Moody Mr Boardman

Head Chair of Governors