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Friday 19th July 2024

Dear parent/guardian,

My final letter of the year is always written with mixed emotions – as we look forward to the holidays, we are also feeling very upset thinking about the many goodbyes we have to say.

Firstly, our year 6 cohort have had a turbulent journey through their education. The disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic cannot be underestimated but the children returned to school and continued with their learning admirably. Your children are the reason we do this job and they really are a credit to you. We wish them all the best as they move to high school and hope that they keep in touch to let us know how they are getting on.

Saying goodbye to staff is hard at the best of times but when three are leaving at once, it is so hard to put into words the gap they leave behind. Miss Shaw has worked with us on supply for three years now and we are so grateful for her hard work and dedication. It is not always easy to find supply teachers who want to work in early years – it is one of the hardest jobs in school but she has done this with finesse and we wish her all the best for the future (I am sure she will be back at some point!). Both Mr German and Mrs Senelle have worked at Tonacliffe for 21 years. Through those years, they have worked for various headteachers and supported many staff. I cannot express in words just how grateful I am to them both. Mrs Senelle has been my rock since I joined this school 14 years ago. Her words of wisdom, kind heart and gentle nature are not easily replaced. I know you will want to join me in saying a huge ‘thank you and good luck’ as she moves into retirement. Mr German has fulfilled many roles during his time here and has always done so with dedication and commitment. Being one of very few men in school cannot be easy but I have always known I can rely on him under any circumstance. He will be missed more than he knows. Many of you will have experienced his caring, considerate nature as parents and I can say with great sincerity that he is one of the best teachers I have had the privilege of working with.

All of the staff and I, would like to say thank you for the kind words of support, cards and any presents that you have given. It has been a difficult year for many reasons but I know I can say, on behalf of all my staff, that your words of thanks are appreciated more than anything else you can offer. My staff work hard to ensure that your children are happy, safe and able to learn to the best of their ability and their commitment means the world to me as a headteacher. An Ofsted inspection so close to the end of the school year is never high on our wish list but your children were incredible during this and I am pleased to be able to share with you the final report. This sums up what I see in school every single day – caring staff, who know your children well, and happy children; this describes the school I have always wanted to lead. Your role in this, as parents and guardians, cannot be stated highly enough. Thank you again for this.

I hope you all have a restful summer, ready to return in September feeling refreshed and ready to go!

Many thanks and with very best wishes,
Mrs Joanne B. Heap
Headteacher

