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Head Teacher: Mr R Adams

South Gosforth First School

*‘Roots to grow and wings to fly’*

Dear Parents & Carers

Well, what can I say… We got to the end of term, and indeed the school year. And what a school year it has been.

Over the last few months, our whole school community has faced so many challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to work in so many different ways for our children and it has been a steep learning curve for each and every one of us.

Some of our critical key worker families have had their children in school since the very beginning of lockdown, some of our pupils have been in to school for certain days and some of our children have been at home learning with their parents and carers as much as they can. I very much recognise that everyone’s experience of this awful pandemic varies so greatly and I know that in September we will have a lot of work to do in school to ensure that our most precious little people feel happy, safe and secure again and to start to address some of the learning gaps which I know that many of our children will have. Please rest assured that senior leaders will be working very hard during the summer break to ensure that we have a robust recovery and curriculum deficit strategy in place so that we are in the best possible position to provide the appropriate support that our children need going forward. We will be communicating elements from these plans with you all as soon as we can in the new academic year.

I would like to say a fond farewell to our Year 4 pupils who have left us this week to move on to the next stage of their education. All of the Year 4 pupils have made us so very proud not only throughout the pandemic in the way that they have shown such resilience and kindness towards each other, but also during their whole school career, where they have been an absolute joy to teach and been the most wonderful ambassadors for our school. I am so proud of each and every one of you for all you have achieved and for what wonderful young people you have turned out to be. You really have all demonstrated how much your ‘roots have grown’ and now you are all ‘ready to fly’. Please do all keep in touch with us – we would love to know how you are getting on at middle school, so feel free to pop in and see us or even post on our Twitter feed.

I would also like to offer a heartfelt thank you to all of our parents, carers and families for your kind messages of support and appreciation for everything that we have done in school over the last few months, as well as all of the numerous gifts and cards which you have sent. I am bowled over by everyone’s generosity. I completely understand that for many of you, we were unable to provide school places which you so desperately wanted for your children during the pandemic. However, the way that many of you managed to work from home, whilst also engaging your children in learning activities is absolutely incredible. It is fantastic to know how well supported South Gosforth First School pupils are at home and I know that I can speak on behalf of all of our staff when I say how much we appreciate all of your efforts.

This year is a year which I most certainly will never forget. But this is not for the obvious reasons which people may think. Yes, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a huge challenge to overcome, but I think what I will remember most is the way that the SGFS staff have pulled together, always with the best interests of the pupils at heart, the strength and resilience of the children and the kindness and generosity of our school community. I am most definitely a believer in ‘never letting a good crisis go to waste’ and I know that there are lessons from this year that we can learn from, largely around home learning, the use of technology, effective communication with the community and above all, strong, decisive leadership. I am looking forward to September to start building upon all of these things in the new academic year and to having all of our school family back together again where they belong.

To conclude, I would like to wish all of you a wonderful, restful and enriching summer break. You have all earned it.

Warmest wishes.

Mr Adams

Head Teacher

