



Oxenhope Church of England Primary School

A member of the
bdot
family

4 February 2021

Dear Parents

As February half term approaches, I wanted to take the opportunity to write to all parents on behalf of the governing body to express my gratitude and support for you all at this difficult time.

The governing body are appointed by the Trust (BDAT) and elected by parents to monitor school leadership, performance and ensure the wellbeing of our wonderful students. Like so many things at the moment this has been a real challenge to achieve but, when we have managed to get a snapshot of life in the classroom, it has always been a delight.

Of course, that classroom has moved. It is no longer the rooms as they were a year ago; for the majority it isn't even in the same building. Many of the Oxenhope governors are parents, teachers or both and we too have found that the learning space has shifted to be the kitchen table, a woodland walk or a very different type of classroom from the ones we were used to.

For some of us, this has provided some welcome time with our children to learn and develop together, however for others and, I think for all of us at at-least one time or another, it's been a source of frustration, upset, anger and anxiety. For those of us who have children with specific needs who are having to adapt to work at home or for those of us facing the stressful task of heading to work on the front line, this has been an even greater time of complex emotion, and impossible choices that have been a test to our capacity to hold it together.

That's why I was delighted to hear from Mrs Jones that many of you have been voicing your support for the teachers and their efforts in providing a space for the children of key workers and those who need to be in school for other reasons, while also trying to engage those of you with children at home and provide the learning content that our children need and deserve.

However, all of us know that for many children, we as parents are now the teachers, lunchtime staff, playground supervisors and caretakers, often while also trying to carry out a day's work. I think its important that, as governors, we acknowledge not just the school staff, but also the amazing work parents have been putting in keeping education going. We know there are days when you might feel you've let your children down and days when you wonder how long you can keep this up for; everyone is in that boat and no one can do more than their best. You're letting no one down, you're being amazing.

Oxenhope Church of England Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Alice Jones

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We all hope that this pandemic will come to an end soon, but we're also committed to doing everything we can to keep pupils and staff safe so, for now, the home-learning must continue. If you are struggling and haven't yet done so, please do talk to the school. I know from my experience as a parent here how important the support of school staff can be and just how skilled many of the staff are at providing not only for our children but us as well.

At some point, hopefully soon, learning will return to our building and classrooms and the task of "covid-19 recovery" will start. As part of that, we want to ensure that we learn the lessons and adapt to the opportunities this awful period has given us. One of those is that we have seen so clearly how amazing all our parents are and how, when we all work together, we can achieve so much for our children and community. If that feels like that's an uphill struggle, it's only because we've managed to reach so high.

Thank you, one last time, for your amazing work and support.

Yours faithfully

Kevin Campbell-Wright

Co-Vice Chair of Governors

Oxenhope CoE Primary

Believe
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