

To Team AK

I wanted to personally thank you all for inviting me to an AK staff meeting for the last two weeks. It has been wonderful to listen to each class team chatting about all the stimulating experiences that have been provided for the children since September.

I genuinely feel that what you have all achieved as a team is truly remarkable during the turmoil of the last 12 months creating uncertainty and insecurity for us all. So many have felt vulnerable and demoralised; yet Team AK tacked everything head on with the utmost professionalism, determination and enthusiasm to provide every child and stakeholder in the school with the very best experience.

As I listened to you all so many thoughts came together about what an exceptional team you are, so here are some of the words and phrases that I jotted down.

Stamina, resilience, challenge, progression of independence, leadership from you all whilst providing leadership opportunities for the pupils too, stimulating curriculum, ingenuity, creative strategies, wonderful relationships with the parents and pupils both in school and at home, passion, pride, inspiration, high expectations and finally a pervading culture of nothing but the individual best will do for each and every pupil.

Sadly, this is not something that is necessarily seen during “normal times” in some classrooms yet you have all achieved it against the odds.

I think it should also be recognised that you have all achieved this when you all had to:

- Deal with an enormous school build and the disruption that is caused whilst trying to keep daily routines and safety paramount
- Move classrooms and reorganise everything to new spaces. An exhausting proposition after a long term.
- Cope with the loss of the invaluable summer term of 2020 for either preparing EYFS for school, moving from KS1 to KS2 or playing catch up with every class to recreate the culture of learning after a 6 month break from school. We all know how hard it is after a normal summer break of 6 weeks, let alone 6 months!
- Rebuild stamina, learning attitudes and in some cases behaviour in the classroom
- Deal with personal pressures from your own families during lockdowns
- Quickly adapt to dual teaching live to those in class and those at home to provide consistency, continuity and a ‘finger on the pulse’ approach for all children to ensure exceptional engagement

You have all produced some excellent work for remote learning whilst also juggling with critical/key worker and vulnerable pupils in class. Yet you clearly continued to engage the children and nurture their passion for learning. I appreciate that some of the uptake during the afternoons for other subjects was a little disappointing but you all persevered and the examples of work shared clearly demonstrated how much your children love school and all of you.

I could continue..... but all I really wanted to express is my gratitude and admiration for you all and this is on behalf of all Governors. It was a delight to witness the sharing of pupil successes and pupil journeys with each other. The incredible work that I saw in upper KS2 yesterday is down to your joint efforts and the journey that Team AK takes each pupil on for 7 years.

Thank you all for taking these children on such a wonderful 7-year journey. What an incredibly lucky bunch they are!

Jan Thompson Co-opted Governor