



# Oaklands Infant School

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To all the Staff, Parents and Carers of Oaklands Infant School,

As we near the end of this school term, I wanted to take the opportunity to reach out on behalf of the school's Governing Body. Not only to wish you well into the new year, but also to reflect on the one we are about to leave behind.

Whilst we have not been completely unaffected by the virus, with a number of suspected and confirmed cases, we have been fortunate in that they were few and our COVID procedures were successful in mitigating their spread. To those that were affected directly, I wish them a full and speedy recovery and all the very best to their families.

Moving on from the lessons learned during the first national lockdown the back half of this year has seen the school come back together with renewed focus and a return to relative normality for our pupils. As a Governing Body we have been encouraged at the measures taken by the school staff to meet government COVID guidelines each and every day and we were delighted to see the return of hot school meals to the lunch menu. This in itself requires a great deal of planning, preparation and enhanced cleaning routines on top of an already busy schedule for the staff and catering teams.

To them I would like to offer a humble thank you. Without their enthusiasm, determination and commitment to education, the essence of what makes our school community so special would be lost.

With that sentiment in mind, I would also like to thank the School Leadership Team for arranging the recent performance of a festive pantomime. To many of us panto is a symbol of festivity and stalwart of the British holiday calendar and, as with many things this year, theatres across the country have been forced to dim their lights amidst great uncertainty.

I know that being able to provide the children with something special at this time of year was of great importance to Mrs O'Neill and hearing from just a few of the parents and carers in the build up to this event I know that the excitement both in school and at home was almost impossible to contain as the day drew nearer.

Oh no it wasn't you say? I can safely state - oh yes it was!

To the school PTA, this year has repeatedly forced you to postpone, cancel and improvise your fundraising efforts. The fact that you continue to push forwards and find new, creative opportunities to raise funds for the school and in your own time is testament to your dedication and resolve.

My penultimate thank you for this year is to Mrs O'Neill. Leading a school is nothing short of challenging at the best of times and 2020 has pushed the remit of her responsibilities further than was ever expected. I know for a fact that her day starts long before the school bell and that it often

doesn't end well beyond the time when I and many others have ended our day. Her leadership has seen the school through the worst of this storm and I'm optimistic that it will carry our community into a stronger, successful new year.

Finally, I would like to thank you all on behalf of the Governing Body. Your continuing engagement, participation and support of the school, its PTA and each other, embodies our ethos of Deep Roots for Future Growth.

Looking ahead to 2021 the commitment of the Governing Body is the ongoing financial stability of the school, continuing to build a diverse and inclusive community and above all else; ensuring a holistic environment where our children can develop, strive and ultimately thrive.

Wishing you all the very best over the holiday period and a very Happy New Year.

*Chris Rossiter*

Chair of Governors (on behalf of the Governing Body)