

## Mrs Nicola O'Connell BA (Hons) MEd (Cantab) 16.7.20

Dear Parents,

Holtsmere End Infant and Nursery School Shenley Road Hemel Hempstead HP2 7JZ 01442 211963 www.holtsmereinfants.herts.sch.uk admin@holtsmereinfants.herts.sch.uk

We have come to the end of yet another school year, but it's been a school year, indeed a year like no other. It has impacted our lives in many different ways but the thing we all share is that it has impacted us all.

As a school staff we have missed the children terribly and have felt incredibly sad that all of the exciting plans, lessons and events that we'd planned for the summer term couldn't be delivered.

On a personal note I couldn't be prouder of our incredible staff and as a Headteacher Holtsmere Infants was definitely the school to be Head of during a pandemic! The staff have been incredibly supportive, juggling the needs of their own families and worries and concerns about what was going on in the world around them to come into school to provide quality and fun lessons for all of our key worker children initially and then to more children when we opened more widely. Our office staff have kept everyone informed and updated whilst dealing with all of the administration of admitting all of our new Nursery and Reception children.

Not only am I proud of all of my staff but of all of the children, those who returned to school who coped tremendously well with the changes we have had to make; different classrooms, staff, routines but they took it all in their stride with smiles on their faces and they have made fantastic progress. Our key worker group have made cross year group friendships and have grown in confidence; it has been a pleasure to see.

You, our brilliant school community have supported us; you've listened and adhered to the measures we have been required to put in place, thank you.

September will be here in a flash and I am looking forward to having all the children back and the school will return to being the happy, nurturing, vibrant place it is.

I know you are concerned about the learning that the children have missed but we have many plans in place and I am incredibly confident that by working with you we will see gaps filled and children happy to be back in school.

I hope that you all have a good summer break, close home school, share stories together and enjoy being together. See you in September.

Take care of yourselves,

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Nicola O'Connell Headteacher