



**Wookey Primary School  
And Little Acorns Playgroup**  
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11<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and everyone in the Wookey Primary School Community,

Yesterday 1<sup>st</sup> June, was the first time I had entered the school gates at Wookey since the middle of March. Extraordinary events have unfolded since then and we find ourselves in June, when most of us are still very much back in March.

Watching children in playgroup, reception, year 1 and year 6 arrive back into what should be their natural environment, I was really proud of how those children were treating the whole situation. Over the last eleven weeks, they have stepped up to the challenges of having to get to grips with home-schooling, doing without the social interaction of friends, routine disruption and having to deal with the same uncertainties that adults have been dealing with, at the same time trying to process what's going on. The children I saw yesterday, looked relaxed and happy to see their teachers and the familiar surroundings once more. The wearing of PPE did not seem to faze them at all. Year 6, in particular, were certainly 'rocking the look'!

Over the last weeks, I have been in constant touch with Mr Marsh, keeping up-to date with what's been happening at Wookey. As a governing body, we are all very grateful to Mr Marsh and his outstanding team. Daily guidance from government and County Hall has flooded in. It takes time to read the many pages, to assimilate the information, act on the statutory stuff and personalise the rest for one's own school.

In addition to teaching the children who were eligible to be in actual school, who have been looked after brilliantly by Miss Barlow, Ms Gibbon, Miss Main and Mr Adams, the teachers set up a very successful home-schooling regime, which has been recognised at County level, alongside other procedures, as best practice. The teachers were available at all times to help with emotional issues and any problems whatsoever. Believe me, when I say the teachers have worked incredibly hard to ensure that an extraordinary situation has worked as well as it possibly can. Working remotely at home must have been very difficult for them, as usually they are part of a very close-knit team, who bounce ideas off one another. Non-teaching staff have also gone way beyond their duties. The children had one of the cleanest schools in Somerset to go back to, yesterday, as Mrs Gosden and Mr Perrone and Mrs Leftley have cleaned areas hitherto unfound!

My favourite saying over the last weeks has been, 'You couldn't make this up, could you?' However we are where we are and I am so proud of what has been achieved by the Wookey team and I know they have felt buoyed by many supportive comments from parents.

In addition to thanking the Headteacher and his staff, I'd like to thank you all for your part in keeping the school community going. It can't have been easy having children around if you were working from home, or having to go into work. Thank you for your support either by e mail or phone call, when school has needed your views. We, as governors are always available and we can be contacted through school. Please use us, if you are concerned about anything

The next few weeks will be 'challenging', but fingers crossed, we may just see glimmers of normality emerging.

Keep well, keep safe, everyone.

Janet Reeves

Chair of Governors