



Dear Gig Mill Family

As we near the end of the most unusual, challenging and different kind of school year I wanted to say to everybody a huge THANK YOU.

THANK YOU first to Mrs Hannaway for leading us through the last 17 months. She has been amazing. Working incredibly hard throughout with the children as her absolute priority, it is only clear now the children are back to school how successful the steps she has put in place have been.

Of course, we are one big team. Our brilliant, inspirational teachers, TAs and HLTAs have nurtured the children, taught them in so many new and, yes, challenging ways! But again, the children have returned to school happy, eager to learn, and almost where we'd want them to be. That is a result of hard work, long hours and dedication. THANK YOU!

Alongside Mrs Hannaway we have a talented Senior team helping to lead the school through the most difficult and dark times – emergency and compulsory closure, distance learning, and many other day-to-day hurdles to overcome. THANK YOU.

I have seen too the overwhelming amount of additional paperwork and red tape the school has had to adhere to. THANK YOU to Mrs Payne and the rest of the admin staff. Without you we would not have stayed open at all!

Our brilliant Reception and Office team have remained calm and welcoming in the face of plenty of (understandable) frustration from parents. THANK YOU.

We've followed the guidance, rules and law at all times throughout, and the Governing body have had to make many difficult decisions in order to meet the ever-changing demands around COVID19 restrictions. THANK YOU to my fellow Governors for their support and wise counsel.

Our site staff and cleaners have held the fabric of the school together through some major changes to how we could open. And our Lunchtime staff have been brilliant helping our children keep their appetites filled! THANK YOU.

Our parents have been really amazing in the light of fast-moving changes. They have encouraged and supported their children to learn in new ways. There have been huge frustrations – I do not underestimate the problems caused by the continual disruption. But these challenges have been broadly met with good cheer and understanding for which I say THANK YOU.

Finally, our amazing, brilliant, resilient and talented Gig Mill children have gone through 17 months of upheaval the like of which I hope they will never have to experience again. They have coped better than the grown-ups and I am so very proud of how they have adapted and still come back to school remembering their story-time floor spaces! They have missed friendship time but have bounced back, as children have the capacity to do, as though they've never been apart.

To our Gig Mill children – my biggest THANK YOU. Together we really do care, and together we will succeed.

With kind regards and my very best wishes for a more normal summer break

Dominic Edgar

Chair of Governors.