



Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

By now, you may have been contacted by the class teachers regarding your child's progress this academic year. Most parents opted for a phone consultation, but some have used School Cloud for a video call. The phone calls have been successful because we have reached a greater number of parents than the traditional Parents' Evening nights. If you ever have a question about your child's learning please don't wait until the consultation meetings. Instead, we can be reached by phone or teachers are available for a chat on the playground.

### Covid 19

In schools, we have to follow strict government guidelines for health and safety and in particular Covid 19. So, whilst pubs, restaurants and shops have opened and returned to a somewhat normal style, in schools we haven't been able to relax any of the measures we put in place. So, we have to keep our one way system, seating children in rows, staggering lunchtimes as well as having separate equipment for things. As for September, we are no more enlightened as to whether we can run clubs or have all children in the hall for assemblies and so on. At the moment, it is a waiting game. Thank you for supporting us in all that we do – it does not go unnoticed.

### Covid Catch Up

The limited money that we have received from the government as part of Covid Catch up has been spent on employing an extra teacher for three days a week. Mrs Matthews works with children in each class and means that more children can be given support and given support in small groups. As you know, this helps children to 'catch up' quicker and helps them develop their skills and confidence. I am delighted with the progress the children are making with their learning, but this obviously needs to continue. You can play your part through reading at home, encouraging children to do homework and practising key skills like spellings and times tables. Five minutes reading a night can transform a child's academic abilities in no time.

### Summer Fair

Sadly, after Monday's government announcement, we will not be able to hold a Summer Fair. This is unfortunate and would be a great loss of community **togetherness**, but, we have to abide by the government decisions. There could be a possibility of holding our fair later in the year because it is a valued tradition. In



official documents and meetings, I always state that we value being at the heart of the Thornaby community – we want the best for this area.

### Reports

End of year reports will be given out to parents on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July. They will have details of the children's progress and attainment (they are different things) this year. The format will be the same one as we have used in the last few years. I have asked staff to make reports personal to the children with tips and ways of moving learning forward.

### Social Media and Website

Some of you may be bored with my recommendations for Twitter now – sorry. Twitter offers a great window into school and alongside the revamped website, provides lots of information about what we do at school and how we do it. Alongside this, the school website is a great first port of call for information on any topic from special needs provision to uniform.

### Parent and Friends Association

The Parent and Friends Association is a new name for the PTA. They are a dedicated and skilled team of school supporters who help organise events like the Summer Fair. In 'normal' times, they are very active in school and are always open to extra help and or ideas. If you would ever be interested in joining please let Mr Dixon know.

Thank you for your continued support with all that we do at Village.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Birtwhistle', written in a cursive style.

R Birtwhistle  
Headteacher.