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HEADTEACHER: Mrs. Gemma Martin

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### END OF YEAR LETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we embarked upon this academic year in September 2020, I don't think any of us truly thought we would reach the end and still be living with restrictions. What a year it has been, with another lockdown and period of remote learning and ongoing safety measures, including the necessary implementation of class bubbles. During Sports Day on Friday, it became clear what a significant impact this measure alone has had on the children; so many of the children simply did not recognise one another or even know each other's names, particularly those of our youngest children. This is such a divergence from the usual way that Himbleton operates - as one big family. I am hopeful that we will be able to return to this from September, it really does contribute to what makes Himbleton so special.

I am very proud of the way that the whole school community has coped with the past year and a half; everyone has calmly accepted the necessary restrictions and respected measures fully to try to keep everyone safe. So, as the year draws to a close, I feel it is important to say 'thank you' to a variety of groups. Firstly, a big thank you to the children for being so fabulous and continuing to embrace our school values and learning opportunities throughout. Thank you to you, the families of Himbleton, who have supported your children magnificently and worked positively in partnership with us - we appreciate all that you do. Thank you to the staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure that safety measures are adhered to, that remote learning and face-to-face learning is available and that children still have access to exciting opportunities; we are fortunate to have such a great team. Finally, thank you to our governors who volunteer their time and go above and beyond to provide support and challenge to ensure that the school continues to move forward positively.

Next year will be a new chapter in the life of the school, as from September we become Himbleton CE Primary School and Nursery. We are looking forward to the opportunities that this will bring and are pleased that we are able to provide further choice for our families. Over the summer, internal building work will be carried out to ensure that our accommodation is ready to cater for our new Year 5 cohort. The second phase of further building work will take place in Summer 2022 so that we are ready to cater for both Years 5 and 6 from that September.

Please see the newsletter for details about new arrangements for drop off and collection from September. Some of the arrangements that have been implemented due to Covid-19 have had a positive impact on the children and the smooth running of the school and we have decided to learn from this and adapt accordingly as we move forwards.

All that remains to say is have a wonderful summer holiday; let's hope that the sun continues to shine. Please do take care and stay safe; we can't wait to hear all about the children's adventures when we return on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Kind regards,

Mrs Martin