

17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We have made it! The Christmas holidays are here and what a testament to us all that we have managed the whole term without having to close a bubble. It really is down to the amazing staff we have, who have gone above and beyond to ensure that school is clean and safe. Also to our children for following the rules and ensuring they do the right thing and the majority of our parents and carers who understand the importance of social distancing and adhering to procedures we have put in place. In true West Vale style we have all pulled together through these challenging times.

I sincerely hope that all our families manage to relax and spend time with those they love over Christmas. We will all be celebrating Christmas 2020 in a very different and much quieter way than before. Having Zoom gatherings is now becoming the norm! Whilst enjoying the festive season, please read the advice we sent from Public Health on how important it is to continue to keep each other safe even though the rules are being relaxed for a short period.

We have enjoyed Christmas in school and tried to keep many of our traditions such as Christmas performances, the nativity, making cards, decorating the tree, Christmas lunch, parties and exchanging cards but in a socially distanced way. Although it has been different, as always, the staff and children at West Vale have made it a huge success.

We have had a wonderful final Celebration Assembly of 2020. Our termly certificates for 100% have been distributed and a regular home reader from each class who shares this on Seesaw have been awarded with a book. As we have one reading prize per class, we put all our regular readers in a hat and selected the reader at random. Our class Christmas Crackers have been chosen by class teachers and I know how difficult it is for them to choose just one child who always behaves immaculately.

As it is the end of term, you will receive your child's progress report today. This is part of our commitment to keep you informed about your child's attendance, behaviour, homework and attainment. Please look for this on Seesaw.

As staff have worked incredibly hard and are all in need of a proper break and some time with their own family members, there will be no communication from school while we are closed. Staff will not be checking Seesaw or responding to any posts or messages. This is not them being rude, but is simply me ensuring they put their own wellbeing and family first. I am sure you will all support me in doing that.

I am continually proud to be the Principal of such an amazing school. I am constantly delighted by the love and dedication shown by the entire staff, the resilience and fun displayed by our children and the kindness, appreciation and support shown by our parents and carers.

I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Kind regards

Mrs F Gardiner

Principal

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