



17th December 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

As we approach the end of 2020, the time has come back to reflect on a strange and somewhat challenging year. The Britannia school community has once again been the shining light through a period of turmoil and I feel incredibly proud to lead such a wonderful school. As a school we have overcome so many obstacles and the Britannia family is stronger than ever.

Your patience, kindness and support throughout the year has been humbling as we have all battled our way through changes to the school day and the raft of ever changing government guidance. I want to say thank you for trusting us and supporting your child in their return to school. Throughout bubble closures, you have continued to work with us and I think we have all found ourselves learning new skills to support each other.

Even through the year, Britannia has remained a community with people participating in challenges, children accessing virtual meetings with their teachers, creating art work in support of the NHS, fundraising and the year has finished with an amazing Nativity from our Year 1 and 2 children complete with live animals and snow. Although it was cold, we couldn't have wished for a better backdrop to create the most magical memories for the children. If you had even suggested that this would have happened twelve months ago, I think I would have laughed out loud.

The staff team have fought valiantly against all the odds this term; on top of a previous five months of fast paced changes, disruption, taking on roles that will never be found on anyone's job description and I am truly grateful to all the staff for all of their hard work. We have developed new skills in track and trace, become experts in cleaning regimes, turned our hands to daily meal serving in school and to homes and battled with technology to ensure that children can access as much learning as possible. Their fortitude, professionalism, loyalty and humour have never ceased to amaze me. There is however, no feeling like having your class in person in front of you and seeing all the children return to school in September was a magical moment for us all this year.

The Christmas celebrations are fast approaching and there are a few COVID reminders that I must inform you about. Over the next week, I alongside members of my team remain on call as requested by the government to assist track and trace to prevent the spread of coronavirus in our community. We are asking for your support once again in looking after each other by following the guidance below.

Please remember, you need to tell school if your child has COVID-19. If your child shows symptoms of Covid-19 within 48 hours of the end of the school term, or tests positive for Covid-19 having shown symptoms within 48 hours of the end of the school, you should report this immediately by emailing head@britannia.lancs.sch.uk . Staff will be on hand to notify any other pupils in your child's bubble and their families so they can self –isolate for ten days.



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It is vital that you tell us about positive tests so that we can help to protect our community and prevent the further spread of coronavirus in our community.

As we move into a new term in January, we have a few staff changes which I must notify you about. Firstly, we will be saying goodbye to Mr Toddington for a period of 2 terms as he takes up a position as Acting Headteacher at St John with St Michael CP School in Shawforth. I am sure that you will join me in wishing him every success in his new position. In Mr Toddington's absence, Mrs Nuttall will become Acting Deputy Headteacher and we welcome Mr Rainey as the new Year 4 teacher. Miss Connolly and Mrs Isherwood will also be joining the Senior Leadership Team from January. I feel confident that you will continue to support these members of staff in their new roles in school.

I always say that I am proud to be part of the "Britannia family" and that it runs through my veins, and never more so than during 2020. The "Britannia family" I believe is stronger than ever, and your generosity and care for the school community is humbling.

My wish for all of you, the staff team, your children and families is that over this winter holiday, Christmas and New Year, you find times of enjoyment, respite, making new memories, maybe creating new traditions; and also a moment to congratulate yourselves on all that you have made happen and accomplished. And that we start 2021 with a sense of hope.

With the very best wishes to all our families this festive time from myself and the school team,

Natalie Longstaff

Headteacher