

## Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed

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17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

I have enjoyed writing my weekly Birches Blog to you each week – this week however I am sending a letter instead.

This year has certainly been a year like no other! The range of emotions we have all been through in recent months are probably too many to mention. There is sadness about loved ones lost, regret over lost time together, worry about missed learning and experiences, guilt over whether we are doing too much or not enough, that we have to go to work or for others that we cannot go to work, there has been fun, love and laughter that has been shared during the extra time at home and joy in the thought of the children returning to school in September. One of the biggest things I feel however when I look back at this year is pride. I am so very, very proud of our children, our parents and our team. We have been through a time like no other - a time that we hope will never be repeated. We probably find ourselves changed in many ways and we know that life will probably never be quite the same again. But we have come through this time as a strong community, a community that has weathered a storm and, just as we said right back at the start of lockdown, after every storm follows a rainbow. Our rainbow of hope lies before us - as we look toward the new academic year and I wish for every single member of our school community that the future holds lots of happiness, good health and time with loved ones and friends that we will cherish just that little bit more.

I would like to place on record my sincerest thanks to all the staff at Birches, the Governors and our colleagues within the MAT (particularly Mr Bowers and Miss Parker) for their hard work, commitment, guidance and support this year.

All the very best to you all. Have a wonderful summer and we will look forward to seeing those of you who are returning to Birches in September. For those of you who are moving on, we wish you all the best too and hope that you take the fondest of memories of Birches with you.

As I hand back the reins to Miss Varricchione, I would just like to say one last time to you all; 'Thank you'. It has been the most challenging time but for that we can all be proud. And I certainly am proud to have been Acting Head this year. It has certainly been an adventure!

Much love,

Mrs Ferretti x