

### Thank you

What a year! If anyone told me at the start of 2020 that parents would be teaching lessons and we would be doing assemblies on something called Zoom then I would have laughed at you. In the 11 years I've been in education, this has to be the most challenging period I've faced. However, during this difficult time, there's been so many positives that we can take from it.

The main positive for me, is the resilience and positive attitude our children have exhibited during this period. When they returned to school in September, it was like they'd never been away. The amount of work they've put in, either in the classroom or at home, has been phenomenal and I couldn't be prouder of them. They are all a credit to our school and I know that our community has a bright future with all these fabulous young people growing up.

Another major positive is how we've dealt with the pandemic as a community. Our parents are brilliant. You've followed the guidance in school to ensure that we keep children and staff safe - I cannot thank you enough for this. You've also been fabulous with home learning and if I ever need a new teacher – I know that I could have 223 brilliant applicants. Most importantly, you've looked after one another during this challenging year. So many communities only care about a few, in Eastwood, we care about everyone no matter their colour, creed or religion. We are one big family that will always come out fighting when times get tough.

I think you will all agree that my staff have been unbelievable during 2020. They are every year, but this year they've gone far beyond the job of a teacher. I can honestly say that I work with the most amazing people who genuinely care passionately about making a difference to your children's lives. The workload for staff has increased drastically since the start of the pandemic and the stresses of coming into a bubble environment on a daily basis is hard. My staff have never caused one issue and have rolled their sleeves up and cracked on with the job in hand. I love coming to work every day due to the three things listed above; our phenomenal children, parents and staff.

Finally, I need to say a huge thank you to Mrs Shaw. It's challenging leading a school at any point, but in a pandemic, it has felt impossible at times. However, having Mrs Shaw by my side always make the impossible seem possible and I would be lost without her boundless positivity and strength. Thanks for being my rock!

I hope all our children and families have the best Christmas ever. They've been through so much over the past year, so now is the time to have fun with family and remember that we are so fortunate to have our loved ones at this time.

Thank you again for helping us through 2020. Let's bring on 2021!  
All our love  
Mr Tankard and the staff at Coleridge.