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Thursday 27th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of this half term, I have been reflecting on my time so far at Bawtry Mayflower and what a pleasure it has been to meet so many new faces. On the days when I am in school, you will see me at the gate or in the playground at the beginning and end of the day. Please do wish me a good morning or afternoon, if you spot me.

It has been a pleasure to see the pupils as they arrive each morning, ready for a busy day in school. Thank you for supporting your children and the school. I have taken the opportunity to get to know as many of the pupils and parents as I possibly can and have enjoyed talking with the children in school at assembly times and have visited all classrooms to share a story with them.

I have also asked the children what they like about school and what they would like to change. Overwhelmingly they tell me that they have brilliant teachers who help and support them with their learning, and who in their words "are always there for us". I have to say that I couldn't agree more, and am proud of the fact that all of the adults in school go out of their way to care, nurture and support the children and each other.

Without a doubt, the things that the children most wished to see change are those things that have been restricted due to the pandemic. These were the children's top three priorities:

- to play with and be with their friends on the playground who were in different bubbles
- to eat in the dining hall with a wider group of pupils
- to choose books from a wider selection of texts from the school libraries

These are all things that we want for the pupils and we are all looking forward to the time when we can reintroduce them; however, we will proceed cautiously until we feel that the time is right. The closure of our class bubble yesterday was unfortunate. The fact that this was the first closure is testament to the effectiveness of the control measures and procedures, and the diligence of staff who have worked hard to ensure that they are in place. It is also a reminder that we need to continue to be vigilant. I do hope for those affected by the bubble closure, that their isolation period passes quickly and that they are able to enjoy the rest of the school holiday.

I would like to finish by wishing you a happy and healthy holiday and look forward to seeing you all back at school on Monday 7th June 2021.

Kind regards

Miss Diane Risley
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