

Dear children,

I would like to start this letter by telling you all how much I am looking forward to being your new class teacher and welcoming you into Year 4! I am sure many of you are nervous and uncertain about coming back to school after such a long time. The experience we have all had is something that no one has ever had to live through in living memory and I am sure it has affected you all in many different ways. I want to reassure you that I will try my very best to make your return to school as easy as I can and I promise you that your feelings and wellbeing are my number one priority. I have two little boys, Owen who is 7 and Ethan, who is 5 and they will both be returning to their schools in September after being away from school for as long as you have. I am hopeful, that their teachers will feel as strongly as I do about the importance of children in school feeling happy, cared for and safe and reassuring them in adjusting to being away from their families and back into school.

I have been teaching for nearly 20 years and every time I meet a new class, I always tell them that the most important thing is to me as a class teacher, is that I want every child in my class to arrive in school with a smile on their face and to go home with a smile on their face. This has never been more important to me as it is now. I always try to make school as happy and fun as I can, I firmly believe that children learn best when they're happy.

When you are in school, you probably think you are here to listen to the teacher but I want to listen to you too! When you come back, I want you to know that if there is anything that is worrying you or upsetting you, please tell me or another adult that you trust in school and we will do everything we can to help. Working together and listening to one-another means we can all learn from each-other. I love the sound of children talking and learning from each other. Even as a grown up, I am learning all the time and I've learnt many interesting and fascinating things from the children I teach!

I have spoken to Mrs Clark and Mrs Brandrick and they have told me how much they have enjoyed teaching you in school and during home learning. You have all done a fantastic job in your own way and I can't wait to build on everything you have accomplished in Year 3 to make Year 4 a success for everyone.

As you start your summer holidays, after this difficult chapter of your lives, please remember you are all amazing individuals and you must take this time to relax, recharge your batteries and prepare yourselves for the next adventure that will begin in six weeks time. I can't wait to join you on the adventure and be there to make you smile.

Take care and see you soon,

Mr Russell