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Dear Parents and Carers,

As the academic year draws to a close, I wanted to write to you one last time, not to share new guidelines or new measures we are having to put in place but to take the opportunity to reflect on the year and thank you for your support.

When I began this academic year, it was with the usual excitement and anticipation at the opportunities that lay ahead; getting to know new children and families, new lessons and the much-anticipated opening of our Forest School and Science Centre, and of course celebrating our 150th birthday. Whilst I could not have begun to imagine the global events that overtook us in March, it is important to me that we not only take a moment to reflect on the challenges we have all faced this past term but the very many successful and happy moments the children had this academic year. These range from the quieter moments spent in the school garden, the whole school events of Harvest and Christmas performances, to the academic progress the children have made; I am incredibly proud of each and every child for all they have, and I have no doubt will continue to achieve.

Whilst we celebrate the successes we have had it is also important to reflect and learn. I have no doubt I have made mistakes during this crisis; there is certainly not a chapter in the Headteacher handbook on how to deal with a global pandemic but, I have always aimed to act with integrity and with your children's best interests at heart, and always will. However, I of course do not work alone, and I wish to pay tribute to the staff team here at Bagshot Infant School. Every single member has risen to the challenge, no matter what I have asked of them and shown their full commitment and dedication to our school. Like many of you, as a staff we have been touched by COVID-19, with staff members hospitalised and family members lost but, no matter how difficult and dark the days were, they always came to school, with a smile and commitment to supporting your children. I know I speak on your behalf in saying; thank you.

I would also like to say thank you to FOBSA, our team of dedicated parents, led by Mrs Glass. They were set for a record-breaking fundraising year, before this pandemic struck, but all credit to them, it hasn't stopped them and tea towels were still sold and leavers books created! Thank you one and all.

I also have some happy staffing news to share with you. Miss Greenslade, whom many of you have spoken to on numerous occasions on the telephone this term has been appointed as Assistant Headteacher from September 2020. I know you will join me in congratulating her and I have no doubt she will continue to have a major impact on the quality of education your children receive.

We also welcome Miss Lauren March to our team. She will be teaching Cherry class next year and is excited to get to know you all.

Finally, we welcome back Mrs Barker to our Year 2 Team. As many of you will be aware; Mrs Barker stepped in to teach Cedar class this term and has been working very hard, behind the scenes to ensure Year 2 home learning is

rigorous and robust. She has agreed to stay on and teach Cedar class next year and again, I know you will join me in thanking her for this commitment.

I would like to end this letter by wishing our Year 2 children and their families the very best for the future. It was and will probably remain one of the hardest decisions I have ever had to make to not welcome our Year 2 children back this term. The conditions were beyond my control but that does not mean the decision was easy nor that it weighs any less heavily on me. Attached to this newsletter, if you are a Year 2 parent, is a letter I have written to the Year 2 children. I would be very grateful if Year 2 parents would share it with their child.

I hope you all remain safe, healthy, and well over the summer holiday period and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Kind regards

Miss K Aldred