



Thursday 17 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

As the end of term has finally arrived, I have taken the time to look back over my correspondence since late February in order to get some sense of the task we have faced since then. My letters to you paint a picture of many emotions and fully represent the rollercoaster we have been strapped to (at least, that's how it feels for me!)

I am reminded of the scene from *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* where Lucy meets Mr Tumnus:

Lucy: Winter's not all bad. There's ice skating and snowball fights. Oh, and there's Christmas.

Mr Tumnus: Not here. No, we haven't had a Christmas in a hundred years.

Lucy: What? No presents for a hundred years?

Mr Tumnus: Always winter, never Christmas. It's been a long winter.

Well it already feels like it has been a long winter and the coldest part is yet to come after the festivities.

In the meantime, it is now time for me to say thank you for all of your support since September during what has been the hardest term of my whole career. It has taken every sinew and every shred of experience to get to this point and I am truly glad we are at the end. The many well wishes and emails of support have truly lifted our spirits and I remain very grateful to you. Just today, we have compiled them all on a timeline and sent them, anonymised, to all of the staff body in one document for them to appreciate first hand.

I hope that the holidays bring you some family time and a well-deserved chance to wind down. I intend to reintroduce myself to a wife, two children and a dog!

On a serious note, we have a rota of staff to man the covid email address until 23 December so that we can support with contact tracing until the festivities begin. If you wish to contact us with any queries related to Covid-19 please do not hesitate to do so via email at COVID@srpa.co.uk.

It wouldn't be one of my letters without a sign off of some sort which is becoming a (probably annoying) habit by now. I spent a childhood immersed in Mark Twain's The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. With this in mind, I leave you with a quote from said author: "Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

My good deed for the Christmas season is to spread some kindness in some unexpected places. I hope a little kindness finds you this Christmas.

Stay safe and take care.

I will write again in 2021.

Yours faithfully



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