**Reflections and Thanks**

31st March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the Spring Holiday, I would just like to take time to reflect back on Term 3 and the challenges it presented for everyone.

For everyone I am sure, including our staff here in school, personally, we will have faced challenges which may have impacted on us all as individuals. There will have been struggles and hard times due to the restrictions we have been under and worry due to the pandemic. None of this has been easy and we truly hope that we are now on a journey out of the pandemic as we move further into spring and summer.

My over-riding feeling however, in relation to our school community is that in many respects it has brought us closer as a real team. We have had to rise to the challenges of communicating differently, supporting our children with their learning differently, overcoming problems differently and I hope that for many of you, you have felt supported with this.

Many of us, children and adults alike have very quickly had to develop our digital skills and I know for some this has not been easy, but for almost all it has been achieved. We feel that all of our children have grown in this area and many of them have learned – supported by you and their teachers, numerous new skills. These are life-long skills which will stand each and every one of our children in good stead for the future.

The positive communication channel via SEESAW for you all with myself and our staff here at Ancrum is something we will not be leaving behind. This has felt really positive for us as a school. You can message us quickly and we can get back to you quickly in a less formal way in relation to small worries/challenges you may have. It has also been amazing to hear good news stories via SEESAW and many messages of thanks – these really are appreciated and are shared with staff when we receive them.

We will start using SEESAW to support Homework next term and beyond. We have ordered with our Pupil Equity money, a number of new digital devices, so that should your child ever need to use one of these at home, then we should be able to support this. All families who let us know there were challenges with devices during lockdown, were issued with a device to support. This is something we wish to continue.

The interaction via SEESAW with yourselves and the support you gave children with this and the P6 and P7 work in TEAMS has been so valued and has meant that for many of our children that they have made progress during lockdown. We have tracked this, and we know where all of our children are with their learning and where they need to go next. We are planning interventions and supports for children who may need them. These will be in place during the summer term and beyond if required.

We believe that our children have settled back into school life well over the past couple of weeks. They have been excited and happy to see their pals and teachers. We have been very happy to see them.

We are planning a supportive and busy final term of school for all of our children, with some fun events which you will hear more about at the start of term 4.

We hope that you all have a restful and safe spring holiday. Take care of yourselves and each other and please let us know if we can support your family in any way.

Thank you all for your past and continuing support. We value it tremendously and could not have gotten through term 3 without you.

Kind regards,

Sharon McQuillan

Sharon McQuillan – Head Teacher