

# Henham and Ugley Primary and Nursery School

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Headteacher: Mrs Kim Hall



18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers & Staff

What a year 2020 has been! We can only hope that the end of the coronavirus epidemic is in sight with the recent start of the vaccination process and that 2021 will be a better year for us all.

Before school closes for Christmas, the Governing Board would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to Mrs Hall and her wonderful team of staff. They have done an amazing job helping our pupils through the lockdown, the partial return to school in June and then full return for all year groups in September. Despite the incredibly challenging times, Henham remains a very happy place to be.

The efforts of our staff during this unprecedented time have been tireless and always focused on the safety and best interests of our pupils. We are aware that all of our staff members also have their own families, with their own safety concerns and considerations, and we cannot express enough gratitude for the way they have responded to the needs of our pupils and their families.

Mrs Hall has done a sterling job of keeping on top of the ever-changing guidance issued by the Department of Education and Essex County Council, responding to each change to the regulations in a professional and positive manner.

It will not be new news for you to hear that the long lockdown has resulted in gaps in pupils' learning. Progress is not what it might have been. This is a national concern, and not one specific to our school. The Governing Board is very aware of the required areas of focus at Henham and is working closely with staff; not only to maintain a happy and safe environment for the children which remains our priority, but also to fill the gaps. To this point, please can we remind parents and carers to continue supporting class teachers with the home learning, including regular reading practice; it really does make such a difference. Together as a team, we can really enhance our children's learning experience.

We would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and all the best for 2021.

The Governing Board  
Henham & Ugley Primary and Nursery School

*Madeleine Lees, Fiona Miller, Charlotte Morley, Jess Laird, Kim Hall, Bex Carter, Neil Richardson,  
Alex Schneider, Nigel Hogg (Vice Chair), Lindy McDermott (Chair)*

