

Messages from Hillcrest



July 2020

A message from the Headteacher

As we approach the end of the summer term, I feel sad that I have not seen many of you in school since March, but also excited at the thought of welcoming you back to school in the autumn term. You will see from this edition of 'Messages from Hillcrest' Messenger that the staff at Hillcrest have really missed you all and are excited to see you again soon.

I have been immensely proud of how well you have been coping with the difficulties of working from home and want to thank parents and carers for all of the support they have been giving you to keep you on track not just with your work, but with the emotional aspects of recent months. I have also been extremely impressed with the way staff have found new ways to set work using SMHW and other platforms and of all the communications, via SMHW, email, ParentMail and phone that have taken place to make sure you are all well, not worrying about school work, but just doing the best you can.

I am sure you may be anxious about the return to school next term, this is perfectly normal and please be assured that everything necessary will be in place in terms of systems and routines for you to return to school safely.

Please try not to worry during the summer break, we will make sure you have all the information you need by the middle of August to feel safe and happy to return to school. We will be working through the summer, following the government guidelines, to get the school building and systems ready for your return. We will also make sure you get all the support you need to transition back into those systems and routines when we see you back in school, building in time to reconnect, regroup and re-orientate.

You will see from the end of term letter that we will have a staggered start to the autumn term with year groups returning on different days, this is so your tutors and teachers can spend more time checking in with you after the school closure.

I have always been very proud to be the Headteacher at Hillcrest, everyone who visits us always says we are a very welcoming school community as well as a very successful one. That is down to our wonderful, smiling students, who treat each other with kindness and want to achieve the very best in their education and go out into the world and make it a better place. Also, due to our fabulous staff team who will always go the extra mile to support you, encourage you and help you with any challenges that you may face.



I look forward to seeing you all in the autumn term.

Please keep safe during the summer break.

My very best wishes to you and your families.

Ms Davies xx

YOU'VE
BEEN
MISSED

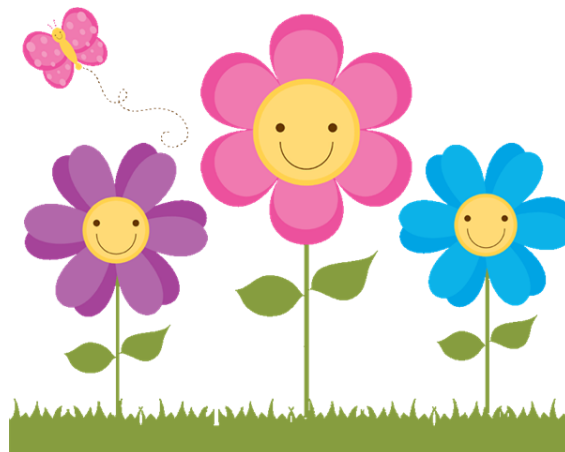


*To my fantastic form M3
My message to you is that
life becomes all that you want it to be.*

*That your dreams stay big and your
worries stay small.*

Go after what you want and never give up!

*Thanks for being a great form.
Mrs Gill xx*





Hello everyone,

I feel very privileged and so proud to be a part of our wonderful and supportive school community. Everyone has pulled together as a team and been there for each other throughout this difficult and extremely challenging time.

All of the students and Parents/Carers I have spoken to when making catch-up telephone calls, have been amazingly positive and happy - and students are eager to return to school!!

Continue to stay strong, positive, safe and well everyone.

Sending my very best wishes to you all.

Miss Taylor xx





Hello Girls,

*I hope you are all keeping safe and well with your families.
I have really missed you all not being in school, and I have
certainly missed seeing all your lovely, smiling faces coming past
main reception.*

*You are all such lovely students, which is why you all need to
keep safe and be happy and stay positive.*

Keep your families safe and well.

*Very best wishes from
Miss Lune xx*



Lockdown has meant...

Learning about gaps in my students knowledge and having time to find resources for them.
Time for reading.

Upgrading remote learning skills.
Lovely conversations with students when we were all in lockdown.

Time to listen to birds singing.
More time for my family and students.

Fun activities with students in school.
Enjoying the lovely school grounds.





Nightingale Students

To my wonderful year 7 students, even though it was a short time that I was your Head of Year I really enjoyed sharing the good times with you! Being able to hand out so many GIR certificates and seeing the effort that went into you achieving these was fab. Please continue this into next year showing Ms Adenike what you are capable of. I also really enjoyed the one to one chats we had, getting to know you more and more. You made a great Nightingale year group and I am very proud of all of you.

To, 7DA-J1, 7DA-J2, 7DR-J2, 8DA-K1, 8DA-J2, 8DR-K2 and 8DR-J1
It feels like we only had a handful of lessons together but of those we did have, I was impressed with how you approached Dance and Drama with such energy and enthusiasm. I look forward to teaching some of you in year 8/9 J.

Y9 Dance

Hello my lovely bunch of dancers! Hope you are keeping well and are still dancing or at least stretching. I am really looking forward to getting stuck into the BTEC qualification with you next year and gaining some brilliant grades with your effort, motivation and determination. I have loved getting to know each and every one of you in year 9 and look forward to getting to know you all further in the next two years. Looking forward to next year! Miss you all!

Y10 Drama

I have honestly LOVED every lesson of teaching year 10 Drama, you are all so motivated, hard-working, kind and caring. You made me laugh daily and I thought it was so lovely that you bought me a birthday present and signed a Christmas card. Please continue to be the wonderful group of girls you are and I CANNOT WAIT TO GET BACK TO THE DRAMA STUDIO WITH YOU ALL! Stay safe and I look forward to helping to get you the Drama GCSE you deserve.

Y11 Drama

I don't know where to start! I would say this group had the biggest, brightest, funniest personalities in one class that I have taught. We always knew who was going to walk into the class late, who didn't have their homework, trousers ripping, tears of frustration, tears of happiness, constant jokes, me having to ask you to get on task about 1000 times, you distracting me by talking about Love Island and I would say it was all absolutely worth it! We had such a fab 3 years together and I wouldn't change a thing. Thank you for turning me grey and giving me wrinkles! Lol.

On a serious note, I wish you all the very best for your bright futures, keep in touch and stay safe.

Miss King xx





Message to N1

Wow what a first year you have had! I remember meeting you during the Year 6 induction day and going through your questions- coping with a pandemic definitely wasn't one of them! Despite this, I'm very impressed with how you adjusted to life at Hillcrest and it was a delight to watch you become more and more independent as the year went on. You were a form full of wonderfully diverse and different characters. One of my favourite memories from this year has to be letting you decorate my form room for Christmas. Your energy and enthusiasm to transform my room into a beautiful grotto was wonderful, and I loved how you then took great pride in the classroom, and being part of my form.

Another moment of pride for me was when we won the form competition. This demonstrated to me, and the rest of the school, how far you had come since joining in September. You not only learned how to behave, become more organised, and adapt to school, you began to lead the way for the other forms too.

I have also enjoyed watching you form friendships within the form. You supported each other, helped each other with homework, and you supported the new members of our form too. You also helped me by always keeping the form room tidy, helping me keep my bookshelf in order and ensuring the dates on my board were always correct.

I miss seeing you every day, and having funny discussions about your days. I miss watching you achieve and succeed in your subjects and your hobbies at home. Thank you for your enthusiasm, your kindness towards others and your conscientious attitudes this year. Keep working hard and being there for each other.

Enjoy your summers, and do please come and say hi to me when we are together again in September.

Miss Howard xx





Hello everyone!

I hope you are all taking good care of yourselves and keeping safe and well. It has been a strange year, and even stranger not seeing your faces everyday! But it is important to stay positive and I cannot wait to be back in the classroom with you again soon. Thinking about our lovely school and pupils has helped me to stay positive during this challenging time. One of my favourite memories just before school closures was World Book Day in school, when I enjoyed being dressed as 'Where's Wally' and seeing some brilliant staff and student costumes.

I have some lovely memories from my brilliant form, P6, this year. Every member of the form has contributed in some way and you have all shown a kind and supportive attitude towards your classmates. One of my favourite moments was hearing about your fantastic work on the bread competition where you achieved first place (and a lovely trophy that has a proud place on the book case). Your efforts at the Christmas market, drawing many, many doughnuts for 'doughnut-pong' were brilliant ... and the activity was also tasty!

Our GCSE History groups have put in so much hard work this year. It has been challenging to not have the opportunity to say goodbye to my fantastic and lively Year 11 groups, but I am confident that they will continue to be brilliant and achieve great things despite such an unusual end to their time in school. I cannot wait to be back in the classroom teaching you all History again. But until then, keep up the hard work, look after yourselves and keep positive (and keep reading about historical things at home)!

*See you soon!
Miss Guyver xx*





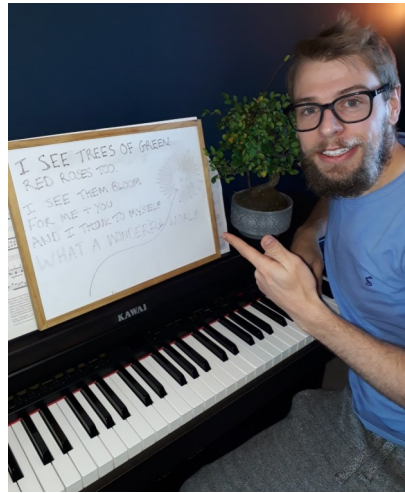
To all my teaching groups: *What a bizarre, but what a historical end to this school year; these circumstances will most certainly be one of those things that will last forever in our memories and unite us. Thank you for making my life so much brighter. I was so lucky to have been your teacher this year. Each of you have left an imprint on my heart and I miss you all so dearly. You are each amazing and wonderful with such great personalities. I have truly loved being your teacher. You make coming to work something that I look forward to. Watching you all grow and mature has been magical and I have relished teaching every single one of you! I hope you end the 2019-2020 school year with happy memories of our lessons together. You have all worked so incredibly hard and no one can ever take that away from you! I believe in every single one of you and thank you for being some of the kindest, funniest and hardworking classes I have taught! Good luck...see you in September!*

Ps; All those pupils who have said, "What do I need to learn science for?" well this is why! Biology Topic 3, Infection and Response, communicable diseases has all of the answers. Fortunately, science will help us combat this nasty little pathogen and no doubt many more to come.

To my tutor group: *Where do I start? When I found out I would be a year 7 form tutor I had no idea how fond I would grow of you all. It hasn't always been easy: we've had crossed words, tears of happiness and sadness but we have had each other's backs all the way and I hope if you have all learnt one thing from your time in N5, it is to be kind! To be respectful, to be honest and always look out for those you love. I will miss you all terribly but wish you all the luck in the upcoming school year. Follow your dreams my lovelies and never let anyone tell you that you can't do it! It is so sad that our journey has been cut short but continue to believe in yourselves as every single one of you is truly amazing! Good luck!*

*Always strive to be the best that you can be.
Mrs Mostofi xx*





Music

The academic year of 2019/20 has been an exciting adventure in the Music department. This year I have seen pupils picking up and playing instruments for the very first time. More and more frequently I have been approached with the remarks such as “Look at what I have been learning sir?” and “I have composed some music, would you like to hear it?”. It is a joy to hear pupils engaging in Music in new and creative ways and I always love to hear pupils work. I hope this will continue and grow into the next academic year.

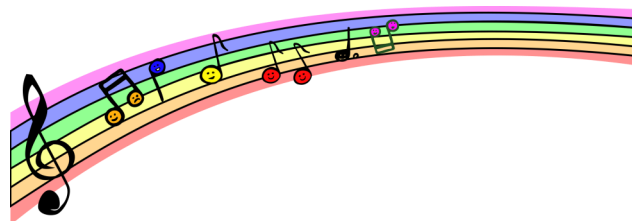
Concerts and shows have, on a whole, continued as normal this year. For some pupils performing is an accustomed experience but for others it would have been their first time performing in front of an audience. I am thankful to say the shows have been huge successes with experienced and inexperienced musicians all playing their parts admirably.

I am delighted to say Music clubs have expanded this year. The numbers in our school choir have increased and become more popular. Thanks to the choir I have seen new friendships form, confidence built and vocal skills improve. GCSE Music pupils this year have started a school pop band and I am looking forward to hearing them perform in the new year. Ukulele club formed just before lockdown and will look to continue next year.

In concluding the highlights of 2019/20 I just want to congratulate the girls who have taken and passed music grades this year. Studying for Music grades is hard work, it takes a lot of dedication, time and perseverance. Music grades are incredibly rewarding, mark achievements and can count towards UCAS points.

I look forward to hearing the progress you have been making in your instruments very soon.

*Have a lovely summer, stay safe and keep practicing!
Mr Nock xx*





Love but not hate,
we are P8!

Dear P8, I hope that you are all keeping well during these rapidly changing times.

The school year may have ended in a rather untraditional way, but I wanted to let you know that it has been an absolute pleasure to be your form tutor this year. We have had great successes from a variety of sporting competitions (as a form and individually), creating and running some fantastic Christmas Market stalls and through the creativity with the bread dough competition.

I can also formally announce that the winners of the weekly quiz for 2019/20 are the appropriately named 'The weekly Winners'. Congratulations girls, your prizes will follow in the new academic year.



To all of the students that I teach, firstly well done. You have worked incredibly hard in extraordinary conditions at home. As you can see from the pictures above, this year we have had many successes from raising lots of money for Children in Need, to celebrating Anti-Bullying Week by making our 'it starts with us' pledges, and through celebrating body confidence with Professor Heather Widdows. Year 12 science students had a wonderful opportunity to attend the Equal in STEM Conference at University of Birmingham, whilst our Year 9 physics students enjoyed great success at the Big Physics Quiz.

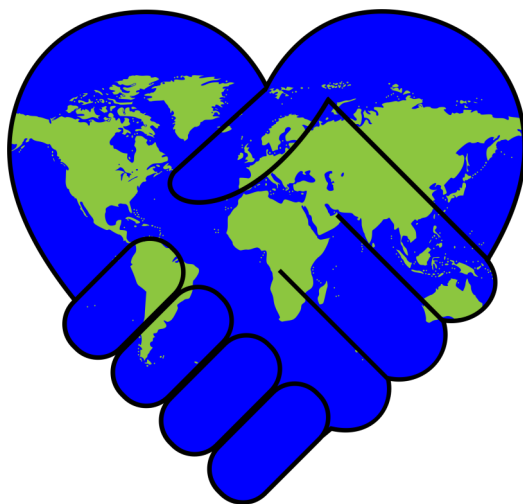
This academic year has been full of exploration, adventure, hard work and lots of Commitment to new approaches to learning. I am very much looking forward to seeing you all again in September and reuniting our Hillcrest community. Until then, have a wonderful and safe summer holiday!

Mr Squires xx



*I am looking forward to everybody being back together again
in September.*

*Best wishes,
Ms Meggitt xx*



Tomorrow will be a better day.

xx



It has certainly been an unusual first year at Hillcrest, but it has been a pleasure and privilege to be part of a wonderful school community. Your hard work and enthusiasm during lessons has been tested these past few months yet so many of you have shown such dedication and commitment to your studies: developing the detail of your responses; learning a new text; sharing ideas and asking for support as well as requesting additional work to help you improve. All these show your maturity and independence as well as your hard-working attitude, and it has been wonderful to see how many of you have engaged so positively even in these difficult times.

I know it has been a struggle for everyone and I look forward to seeing you all in September when we can hopefully have a less difficult and even more productive year.

Take care, enjoy your summer and I shall see you again soon.

*Best wishes,
Miss Meacher xx*





Hello All,

We have been in school this week getting ready for your return in September. We miss seeing you all busily and creatively making products in our DT rooms.

Enjoy the rest of the Summer and we will see you very soon.

Mrs Kirszy, Mrs Stanford and Mr Lakin





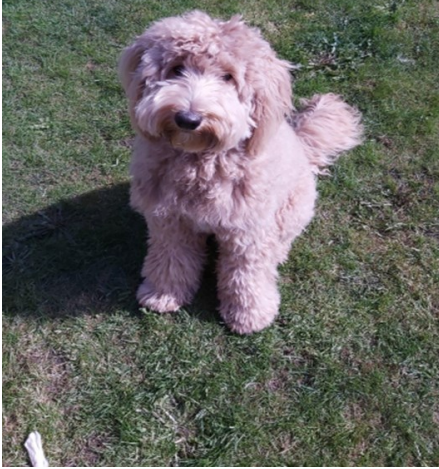
“Believe in yourself, take on your challenges, dig deep within yourself to conquer fears.”

I hope you are all keeping well and safe! I am writing this message to strongly encourage you all in keeping a daily routine, maintaining some form of exercise, and making time for reading in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle. It is very encouraging to see that our students have worked positively in such a difficult time during COVID -19. We as teachers also suddenly faced the challenge of how to continue our students' education during a difficult situation. In response, we expected to have a greater responsibility from our students to help keep up with their studies. The belief that we had in all our students has been fulfilled; for which we all are very proud. I would advise you all to keep your dreams alive and understand that to achieve anything, requires faith and belief within yourself, vision, hard work, determination, and dedication. Remember all things are possible for those who believe and have desires to reach their potentials. We believe in you and hope that we all will see you in September with a positive attitude.

I would also like to thank and appreciate the efforts of parents/carers in continuously supporting their children with home learning.

*Kind regards,
Mrs Zahoor xx*





Hi everyone,

I wish you all a joyful summer holiday, and want you to feel positive about your return to school in September. It will be strange for us, as we have lived without school for such a long time. I am looking forward to chatting with everyone again so much - and I'm sure you are looking forward to catching up with your friends and being real, and not just a virtual part of the Hillcrest family again.

We will all support each other, and I can't wait to find out how school will feel with you all back - it's been so quiet and a bit sad to be in school without most of you. We will have to work out how to start our learning in school again, and your teachers are already planning how to support you so you can be successful and confident learners again.

I am really looking forward to meeting you all at the start of this next stage of your exciting Hillcrest journey.

See you soon!

*Lots of love,
Mrs Penn xx*





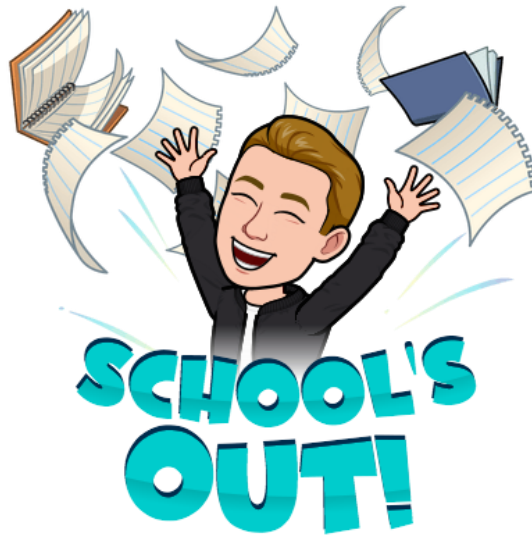
To all of my Geography, Criminology and RE students, you have been an absolute pleasure to teach this year! Seeing you all progress over the year has filled me with so much pride and the leaps and bounds you have made this year are testament to your continuous hard work and dedication. I feel so lucky to be able to teach such bright, motivated, funny, caring and compassionate students. You are all incredible individuals and I have thoroughly missed being in the classroom with you all.

The way in which you have adapted to the really difficult circumstances this year has been amazing. I am in awe of how resilient you have all been. You should be super proud of yourselves! I'm really looking forward to catching up with you all next year.

Have a wonderful summer - don't forget that we are still here if you need us - and I'll see you on the other side!

Mrs Sanger xx





To all Hillcrest students,

Although the last few months of this academic year have been challenging, you have worked fantastically well and risen to the challenge. I have been very impressed by how well you have achieved this. I have really enjoyed seeing your scores and hearing how well you have been doing on Rosetta Stone! I think we will have some fluent French-speakers before we know it! Well done for your resilience and hard work!

To my the students of P1

It has been a pleasure being your form tutor this year. Thank you for all the interesting form discussions that we have had and for always making me smile!

I wish all Hillcrest students a lovely summer! Enjoy the break ready for September! Stay safe and well!

*Best wishes
Mr Harrison-Webster xx*





To my lovely M1 form and to all the students that I teach or have been in contact with over the last school year.

Well what a year! Despite the disruption over the last few months, there has been so many good things to celebrate this year. Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your hard work in Physical Education, Dance, Drama and Music over the last academic year. So many of you have shown us commitment, effort and dedication in our subjects and have worked really hard.

I have seen so many fantastic things it would be hard to write them all down so below are some of my most memorable points of the year:

- Extra-curricular activities - Well done to everyone that has participated in extra-curricular activities and school teams, you make our school environment a fantastic community to be part of.*
- Year 7 Blackwell trip - It was fantastic seeing improved confidence and team building skills enhance throughout the day*
- Our new Gym - we began teaching lessons in our lovely new gym*
- Sports Relief - As a school we smashed our target and walked over 1000 miles and raised lots of money for valuable charities supported by Sports Relief.*
- Birmingham Connect - The Year 9 connectors assisted by my Year 10 sports leaders hosted a fantastic day of team building activities hosting the university of Birmingham School. During the event, we had a visit from a representative from the Youth Sports Trust and Sport England who described our day as one of the best they had seen and a model for all schools in the programme to follow.*
- Christmas Show - a celebration of the high standard of our brilliant musicians and performers.*
- Work from home - thank you for all the lovely messages I have received from lots of students and all the excellent work submitted, it makes my day!!*
- Beat the teacher challenge - thank you to everyone that has taken part in all or some of these challenges, it's been really fun to run and an exciting challenge to see so many of you determined to beat us!!*

*Thank you to all students for being so amazing and a pleasure to work with.
You are all fab and I am looking forward to seeing you all soon!*

*Best wishes,
Miss Taylor xx*



Hi girls.

Well, it has been a difficult year hasn't it? But the one thing that always makes me smile is you. You are such kind, enthusiastic, polite young people and you should feel proud of all you have achieved over the year, including coping very well during lockdown!

I would like to say some thank yous and goodbyes:

- *7EN2 English: thank you for trying so hard over the past few months, and for always being such great classroom participants in lessons. You have been a joy to teach, every single lesson was a pleasure. And no doubt, you will go on to wow more teachers next year.*
- *8EN1: you have also been an incredible group to teach. Yes, you are loud! But you also give 100% in lessons and you are such a fun class to be with. You have worked well over the last few months, but I will never forget your amazing reactions to Macbeth and Of Mice and Men. I loved teaching you those texts. I loved teaching you.*
- *9EN4: you have improved so much this year! Your behaviour has been brilliant, you have tried really hard with your work in class and you have become far more independent. You have come a long way. You will do very well next year I am sure.*
- *10EN3: you have also been incredible. I have loved seeing you blossom over the year: from moving from low confidence with poetry to being enthusiastic about An Inspector Calls, you have been a pleasure to teach. I am looking forward to seeing you thrive in year 11 (because you will!) and seeing what you are truly capable of, I am certain it is a lot.*
- *11EN3: I loved teaching you. You were always so lovely! You were excellent listeners, great at classroom discussion, funny (!), and more importantly: you wanted to do well and achieve your best. That, I really saw after Christmas, and the improvements in your work was phenomenal. I wish you all the best for your bright futures and hope to see you again soon one day. Thank you for being so great.*
- *13EnglishLit: Wow. Just wow. What wonderful young women you are. I am getting emotional writing this because I know how upset we all were that we didn't get a proper goodbye. It has been my privilege and an honour. You really brought our set texts to life! Your theories and discussions will resonate with me for a long time. I will never forget your kindness and your hard work - you all deserve the very best in life. And, I hope we get to have our Y13 Nando's leaving meal one day!*
- *Which leaves my M6 Year 11 form. I honestly don't know what I did to be so blessed with such an amazing form! You have been truly wonderful all year. I really, honestly, was so lucky to be your form tutor - it was an absolute honour. I will never forget how kind, intelligent, funny and polite you were. Whichever job, college, or sixth form you go to next year, they will be truly lucky to have you. I am sorry we didn't get a proper goodbye. I hope I will see you again one day.*

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer girls. You need to rest and refresh ready for next year. I look forward to seeing you all again soon and can't wait to hear your screeching and screaming in the corridors once more.

*Take care and stay safe,
Miss Roland xxx*



I would like to wish everyone a happy summer holiday. Well done for surviving lockdown and for your efforts to cope with remote learning.

Highlights for the year have been meeting and teaching new students, as well as the pleasure of continuing with classes I already knew. Thanks go to my year 12 form for their positive and friendly responses to the form messages and to my year 12 English group for the quality of their discussion during lessons. The Year 13 English group completed their coursework after the A levels were cancelled, and their determination and commitment produced great results.

Well done to Jenny in year 10 for participating in Speak Out earlier in the year. Well done to year 11 who worked their way through the mock exams and made pleasing progress, only to be told they couldn't sit their exams.

Thanks too to my lovely year 7 and 8 groups who have impressed me with their work throughout lockdown.

I look forward to seeing you in September!

*Best wishes,
Mrs Price xxx*





Thank you to M5 for always being optimistic and developing your revision habits. I will miss you all. I hope you all go on to do great and wonderful things in the future.

To my teaching groups, you have all worked very hard during the year, and you astounded me with your hard work, dedication, determination and humanity.

Have a restful summer and I shall see you in September.

Mr James xx





It has been a strange year, but I couldn't be prouder of how all students have worked and pulled together.

N2: You have come along so much this year. You have supported each other as a form and really grown as individuals. I will be sad not to see you before the Summer, but I look forward to seeing you all after the holidays.

Geographers: It has been such a pleasure to receive excellent examples of work during lockdown. You have done so well to keep up with the work. Keep reading the news over the holidays and looking out for geographical stories.

DofE: Well done for persevering with your activities through lockdown. Keep this up over the Summer holidays and you will be in a really good place when we get back to school. As a group we have completed 117 hours of volunteering this year - this is amazing - well done!

Miss Glendenning xx



Dear P4

You're going down in history,
the class of 2020.
When Hillcrest closed and we stayed at home,
to save the lives of plenty.
I am so impressed with all of you,
for working so hard at home.
The first time when in school,
you've been told to use your phone.
Thank you for "checking in" with me
and telling me how you are,
I liked that job, of all the tasks
it was my favourite one by far.
We have missed out this year
On so many things
But I think we've grown as well,
and stretched our creative wings
At home without the ringing bell.
You have managed your education
Like no one has before you
You have lasted the lockdown duration
Show my homework has helped us through
They are lifting lockdown
which is wonderful to know
Things are starting up again,
but it does need to be slow
Keeping each other safe and well
has really been the reason
To stay away to save ourselves,
and miss an entire season.
So July is here and it's, the end of term,
And we've known nothing like it.
September is coming soon
I will see you back here in a bit.
Whenever it's a sunny day
And someone opens the blind
I promise not be grumpy again
And to my new form always be kind.

P4 you're the best form by far,
Which is obviously totally true
You make me smile, you work so hard
And I am so very proud of you.



With love to
you all,

Miss Calder
xx



Well done for all your hard work and perseverance!

Have a lovely holiday and I am really looking forward to seeing you all in September.

*Bonne vacances!
Ms Cooper xx*





I've really missed interacting with all of the girls in the classroom as this is my favourite bit of teaching. However, I have thoroughly enjoyed your 200 word challenge writing responses, your recreated book covers and your tenacity with the quizzes we have set as you try to keep improving your scores.

I really do look forward to seeing you all in September.

*Best wishes,
Mrs Drury xx*





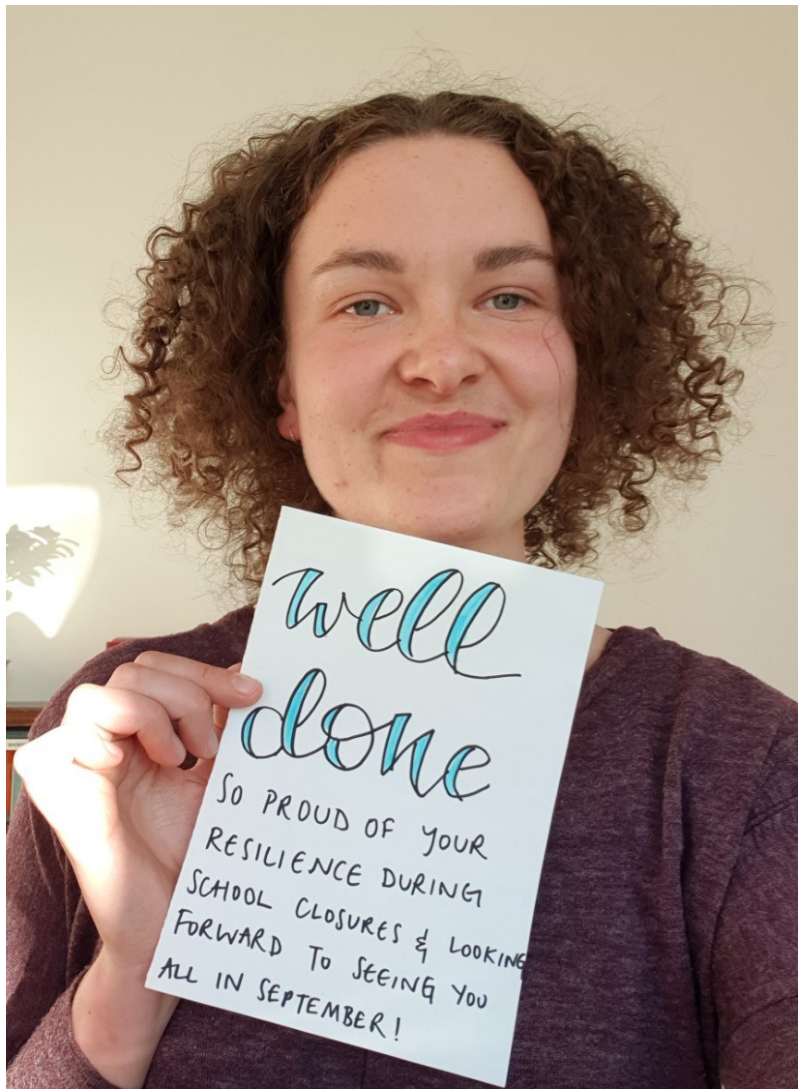
Hi girls,

I can't believe that this term is coming to a close and I haven't met you in person yet; hopefully this will be resolved by September.

As the summer holidays and better weather (fingers crossed) arrive, I would just like to say stay safe, have fun, and see you soon.

*Best wishes,
Mrs Field xx*





*Best wishes,
Miss Muncney xx*





We look forward to
seeing you all in
September

XX