

16 July 2021

Dear Families,

What a year it has been! Where do I start?! I think the last 18 months have been challenging for us all; we've had many ups and downs and I just wanted to write to the whole school community to say a massive thank you for your continued support.

Over the past 12 months, you've been teachers, councillors, doctors and, most importantly, parents. You've shown a level of resilience that has inspired and amazed me. I always say to families that it's a privilege to be the headteacher at Coleridge and I truly mean this. It's a privilege to work with parents like yourselves, as you care so passionately about your children and want the best for them. I hope you know that we care as passionately about your children and share the same dreams and aspirations for them as you do. Until you've worked in our community, you've no idea what a special place it is. I always feel like you've got my back and that you're there for me in dark times and I am so grateful for all your support.

Our children have once again shown bravery, flexibility and courage during another challenging year. They have worked as hard from home as they did in school and showed what amazing attitudes to learning they have. This period of time has been so difficult for them and they've missed out on so much - on so many different events. Having the opportunity to see them go to the seaside and do the Colour Dash reminded me of all the wonderful experiences we were giving our children before the lockdowns and has made me more determined to ensure that our children get these experiences once again next year.

I would like to pay tribute to my staff. They are a credit to our community and I am astounded by the lengths they go to on a daily basis. We recently had a review of school and the Ofsted Inspector was astonished by the quality of teaching, both in the classroom and remotely. Our teachers are a special group and we are all so lucky that they work at Coleridge. They show a level of commitment that goes far beyond their job description and they would do anything for our children. They have the hearts of lions and I could not work with a better bunch of people.

Finally, before you go and enjoy your summer, I need to ask one last favour. Over the last 12 months we've seen episodes of hate across the world: the racial abuse of Marcus Rashford and his fellow England players, hatred shown towards LGBTQ+ communities and the divide that COVID has caused in communities. During this time, I feel that as a community, we have worked together. Can I ask, during the holidays, that we continue to show kindness and respect to others and that we come together as one to ensure our whole community has the best summer possible.

Once again, thank you for your support. Thank you for your commitment to school. Thank you for your time, effort and compassion. I know that we don't always get it right as a school (it's not for the want of trying), but I know that no other school and their community tries as hard as we do nor works together as well as we strive to. We cannot wait to see all our children back in school on Thursday the 2nd of September but in the meantime, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all an awesome summer!

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "I. Tankard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "I" and a stylized "Tankard".

Mr Tankard and all Coleridge staff