



July 2020

Dear Parent,

Head of Juniors End of Year Letter July 2020

Each year I write to parents at the end of the summer term following a hectic few weeks of end-of term events. This year has been a bit different as the end-of-term events have largely had to take place online. It is a shame we have not been able to round off the academic year in the usual way, but this hasn't stopped Junior pupils from achieving a great deal in the last year.

Looking back over the year, it has been full of achievements and participation in a number of different areas. I have been proud of children's involvement in a variety of different sports during the Autumn & Spring Term. The children enjoyed some great results in their Netball and Football fixtures and a special congratulations must go to the Netball team for finishing 1st in the district competition for small schools. A number of our boys and girls took part in the District Sports Hall Athletics event and we were rewarded for some wonderful performances with 2nd place overall.

The number of children involved in music this year has continued to grow and I would like to thank Mr Edney our Director of Music for being so inspiring and aspirational. It was a truly wonderful moment to watch every student from Year 3 to Year 6 performing so confidently during the Junior School concert in the Autumn Term. We were treated to an excellent Christmas production in December and a group of our students were invited to perform for the first time at the Caterham School Drama festival.

We are truly blessed to have staff who are passionate in making learning come alive. We can look back with fond memories on 'Harry Potter Day' and 'World Book Day.' The time and effort that the staff and children put into their costumes and the cross-curricular learning activities was tremendous. As part of book week; we invited in children's author, Vashti Hardy. Vashti inspired us all when sharing her journey of becoming an author. She then spent the remainder of the day working with each year group, providing workshops to explore creative writing. It was heart-warming at the end of the day when she commented to me, 'what wonderfully enthusiastic and engaged learners we have here at RAA.'

In addition to these educational events, one of the aspects of school life which makes us such a special school is our co-curricular activity programme. I would like to thank the children for their passion and commitment to the huge amount that is on offer here at Gatton. It is fabulous to see pupils having the courage to try something new, or to pursue an activity which they are passionate about.

On the academic side of things, the year has not ended with Year 6 pupils taking external SATS examinations. I would like to say how impressed I have been with the mature approach taken by all pupils as they have

continued their learning either at home or if they have been in school during the last few months. It will stand them in good stead when they come back in September.

For the children in Year 3-5, I hope you enjoyed receiving your 'Meet the Teacher' email and the accompanying video. For the Year 6 pupils who are moving up to Year 7, on behalf of all the staff, we wish you the very best for your future.

The next job is to plan for September and this is something that will continue throughout the summer as we receive more Government guidance. Sadly, due to the current situation we were unable to host the Junior School prize giving this term. I would like to reassure you that the school will look into a safe way to celebrate the achievements of our pupils this year, 2019-20. We will await further guidance from the Government and I look forward to sharing more about this when we can.

I hope you and your family enjoy a relaxing summer break and look forward to welcoming your child back next term.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Smith', written in a cursive style.

Head of Junior School