

Westcroft Stanhope

Bishop Auckland

Co Durham

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

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Dear Parent/Carer 23rd October 2020

I just wanted to write to say a huge thank you to everyone for your support and understanding during the first term of this academic year and also the first term in my role as Acting Head Teacher.

Without doubt, it has been extremely challenging but also extremely rewarding. My favourite part of the day is standing at the school gates on a morning and seeing our children skipping, running and excited to be coming into school – there is no higher compliment to a school.

The children have settled really well and I do believe that this has been due to the planning and preparation of our team. The children have been welcomed back; made to feel safe, happy and have quickly adapted to the new routines and procedures in school. Over the last few weeks it has been lovely to see how much progress they are making already.

In this last week of half term, our teachers have carried out baseline assessments and over the holidays will be identifying knowledge gaps and focus areas for our 'catch up' programmes. I will write at the beginning of next term with more information about our 'catch up' plans which will begin after the half term holiday.

We end this half term with a Halloween dress-up/non-uniform day and it has been wonderful to see the amazing costumes and painted faces. We purposefully did not ask for donations on this occasion as I am conscious that many of our families have been adversely affected by current situation and wanted to end the half term in a happy way not by putting additional financial pressure on families.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Cross Acting Head Teacher

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