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Dear Parent/Carer

The summer term has now commenced and although our school buildings remain firmly shut to the vast majority of our children, our hearts and minds remain very much open, retaining an unwavering sense of our responsibilities as leaders, teachers and support staff for the ongoing wellbeing and education of the children and families that we serve. With this in mind, I would like to take the opportunity within this letter to outline how we as a School/Trust have harnessed and aligned our collective efforts to meet the significant challenges ahead.

I am sure like me you would like to offer heartfelt thanks to all leaders, teachers and support staff for the amazing efforts that continue on a day-to-day basis. During what would have been our Easter holidays, colleagues at Wilcombe and across the Trust have continued to provide childcare for the most vulnerable children and to the children of parents whose work is critical to the challenge of defeating coronavirus, willingly giving up holiday time with their families, including bank holidays, to continue to serve on the front line of this national effort.

As a School/Trust we have been observing Public Health England guidelines, including minimising the amount and frequency of social contact, with this in mind we have kept staff numbers to a minimum in our school, encouraging colleagues to work from home as much as possible. We remain committed to doing everything we can to protect our staff and your children.

There is no doubt that we are living through a unique period in our history and our actions, behaviours and achievements in the next few months will form part of an enduring legacy. To this end I think it is important to lay out some ambitions for our work.

I would hope that at some point in the future we will all be able to look back at this period of time knowing that as far as humanly possible we did the right things at the right time for our children and families, making a significant contribution to protecting and promoting the well-being of our communities and our Nation as a whole.

Whilst ensuring compliance with both normal and extraordinary regulations, we will have targeted resources and prioritised activities which will support our society in the long term. Crucially, we will have looked forward with positivity and by working together ...

Your child/ren will have remained safe and well looked after

We will have used the very best approaches to supporting remote learning that will have minimised the educational deficit of this period, especially for the most disadvantaged

Your child/ren we will still feel connected to school through the high levels of personal contact and care that they have experienced from their teachers and support staff

Your child/ren will have increased general knowledge, life skills and awareness of the world in which they live  
Families will feel that they have been well supported in keeping their families safe, happy and purposefully occupied

We will have played a meaningful role as a strategic partner in civic leadership within our local communities and across the wider system

We will have a thoroughly planned curriculum offer in place for 2020/21 which takes into account the missed time in school, especially for the most disadvantaged

At times like these, clear and consistent communication is more important than ever and I will of course keep you updated on our progress towards meeting these ambitions.

With my very best wishes, stay safe and well.

Reg Gilbert

Head Teacher - Wilcombe Primary School