Dear parent / guardian,

 Over three months ago now, and 60 missed days of Nursery schooling later (give or take a day or two), I find myself echoing exactly the same words as I wrote to you back then -

*‘What strange times these are! If I had told you at our last ‘Happy Healthy Me’ workshop at the end of January that just six short weeks later, we would be contemplating closing the school, and would maybe not be returning until September, you would either have laughed at me, or had someone in a white coat come and take me away! And yet here we are, in exactly that situation!’*

Back when I wrote that, we were all just at the start of the strangeness, wondering if it would really be that bad, if the children would indeed not be back at school until September, and how we would cope if they weren’t! And yet here we are again! Sadly, it did turn out to be that way, and the children (in fact, all of us as a Nursery community – children, you as parents and families, we as staff), we have all missed out on so much – their Sports’ Day, their Graduation, their wee end-of-year trip away together. But I firmly feel we must also focus on the positives! You made it! You survived to the very end!

 I remember reading a quote at the start of all this that said –

“In years to come, let them say of us: when things were at their worst, we were at our best.”

Over the past few months, you may not feel on every occasion that you were at your best, but I truly believe, what your children may have lost out on in terms of events and doing things socially together as a class, they will have gained even more by spending time

and doing things together with you, their first and most important caregivers. That was the best for them! So certainly, breathe a huge sigh of relief! But please also give yourselves a huge pat on the back!

And now as we move into the summer months, and as the children begin to prepare to move on to P1, I am leaving you with one final newsletter, this time from the RISE Early Years team. I realise it is very full and wordy, but if you just even pick out a few activities a week from it over the summer, it will help your children enormously as they get ready for more formal education in September. And remember, if you **talk** with them, **read** with them, **sing rhymes** with them, **play** with them, let them be **active**, both with their big muscles, and their smaller hand movements, and encourage them to be as **independent** as possible, you will be doing everything for them that they need in order to move on successfully.

If you do need anything, or have any queries over the summer months, please just send an email to kturner452@c2kni.net and I will get back to you.

And finally, may I just take this opportunity to thank each one of you, and your families for all your support, co-operation, patience and understanding over the past year (and in particular the last few months). Your children have each one been an absolute delight to teach and a credit to you all! ☺

Please take good care of yourselves, and I wish you, your families and your children every best wish for the years that lie ahead!

Karen Turner