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Dear parents and wider St Aloysius family,

As I reflect on a year I never imagined I would lead, I am filled with great pride and gratitude.

- I am proud to be the leader of our school.
- I am proud to lead a dedicated group of passionate and caring individuals (administrators, teachers, teaching assistants, lunchtime supervisors, caretakers, cleaners, kitchen staff).
- I am proud of how you, our families, have supported our children at home

.... and finally I am proud that our school is slowly emerging from this crisis with its head held high.

Leavers

I cannot praise our leaving cohorts highly enough. We have leavers in Year 6 and those children who are leaving us from Nursery. **They have experienced a final year with us like no other.** They have been exceptional role models throughout their time in school. Empathy, resilience, kindness, patience - these are the qualities they are going to need now as we make our world a place to be proud of - they have these qualities in bucketfuls. It is vital that they work hard in their secondary schools and are ambitious for their futures. We are so sorry they missed many of their rights of passage as school leavers but the way they returned is testament to the mature, confident individuals they are. We will miss you greatly. Thank you for what you have all contributed to our wonderful schools.

Curriculum Provision

It is understandable that some parents will be concerned about the amount of education that has been missed over the lockdown period. We can assure you that we have already taken steps to identify areas of learning that need to be addressed across every year group. We will continue to teach a broad and balanced curriculum like we always do that will help re-engage children with their learning. We are currently developing our home learning provision to include a virtual platform whereby children can log in and access content in a more interactive way in the event of a future local lockdown or if groups of children are in self-isolation. We are conscious that some children may return to school with a little apprehension. Our experience of the year groups who have returned so far is that this apprehension soon goes and the children thrive quickly. Your children's wellbeing is very important to us and we will endeavour to meet their emotional as well as their academic needs on their return.

Month of Miles

Tomorrow is our last day together for seven weeks. Smile for Life, the children's charity and their chefs at Cafe Beam (Gosforth) supported us throughout the last fifteen weeks by cooking 9000 meals for our community and we want to support them going forward. One of the initiatives that we are supporting them with is a fundraising one. Some staff at St Aloysius are going to be taking part in fitness challenges throughout our holiday period. Miss Fenwick and I had planned to run the Great North Run for them in September but because this has been cancelled for the year we are going to be doing equivalent individual challenges. I've attached the letter we sent out earlier in the week and encourage you to either take part in the initiative or support our fundraising. We will hold a variety of events throughout next year to raise money for them. **Tomorrow, those children in school can wear their own clothes and we will leave drop boxes for any kind donations.**

Uniform

A reminder about uniforms. Pupils will be required to return to school in full uniform. Our uniform provider for specific items continues to be JK Clothing. The shop is now open and also has an online facility. They have informed us that stock is not due to arrive until early August, as the order was held up due to factory shutdowns because of COVID19. Any orders they receive prior to receipt of the delivery will be held and given priority as soon as the stock arrives. The costs of the uniform at JK clothing are:

- Badged Polo Shirt £8.00
- Cardigan/Jumper (all sizes) £16.00
- Tank Top £15.00
- Ties £5.00

Please note all children from Rec - Y6 must wear black shoes, no trainers.

- PE Kit:
- PE Top £8.00
- Plain navy shorts (no logos)
- Trainers (infants may use plimsolls or trainers, but junior children must wear trainers)

We are happy to support any family who requires financial support with the cost of the uniform. Please contact the school via email and we will make arrangements with you.

And finally,

We can almost touch the rainbow! In September we will welcome back all our children. We cannot wait to be together again as one (staff, governors, parents and children) and I am grateful to how we have all stayed united for the good of our community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind words and continued support over the last few months. I appreciate that it has been an incredibly worrying and challenging time for so many of you who have not been able to send your children into school. I in no way underestimate the lengths and great efforts you have gone to in order to help your children with their home learning while trying to balance a multitude of other things at the same time. Despite this, you have shown nothing but **patience**, **positivity** and **kindness** through phone calls, emails and face-to-face conversations. Thank you.

On behalf of myself, staff and Governors, I hope that you and your family have a lovely, well-deserved break over the summer and I look forward to welcoming the children in school on Tuesday 8th September.

Nick Conway

***May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your
fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.***