



Farewell (and not Goodbye) to Team 6, Class of 2020

Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Team 6 Children & Families,

OUR VALEWOOD CLASS of 2020

What an amazing journey you have all had at Valewood! And, what a crazy, end of Valewood year you have all had to endure. I am pleased that we were able to get Team 6 back together, at least for the last two weeks of school, and I thank all the staff who have made this possible. I know it's not been the same, having you all shared out between Ms Eglin's and Mrs Stoddart's classrooms but I hope that you have all made the best of the time you have had together. I want to thank our Team 6 staff for all the effort that has gone into all lovely things they have done with the class, over the year and especially over the last two weeks, as everything has been so different compared to previous years.

For the children who were unable to join the rest back at school, I know how that must have been for you, as I haven't been able to go into school since lockdown on 20th March. It makes me all the more determined to get you all back together as soon as we can do that safely.

Please know that I am making sure that we all come back together for a proper 'goodbye'; an opportunity for us to come together and do something fun in the Autumn term, in place of all the end of term events/ residential that were cancelled. Here's what I'm thinking...all being well, parents can bring the children to school on a Saturday afternoon- with sleeping bags and midnight feast treats! The staff and children will share a presentation with the families and then the parents can go- leaving us to enjoy an afternoon and evening of fun! We'll have the whole school to ourselves! Ms Eglin, Mrs Stoddart, Mrs Parr, Mrs O'Brien and Miss Clark have already said they are going to join in. No parents but teachers and TAs are welcome!

Tea will be on me: we'll order a take away and some other treats. We can play games inside and outside if the weather is kind to us...imagine hide and seek in the whole school?! We can even ask Mr Parr to get the camp fire going in our Wednesday Woods, at the bottom of the field, as the evening draws in. We can toast marshmallows and share stories and memories of our time together. I'm sure the staff have lots of great stories about your time at Valewood! Then, how about some karaoke/ a last chance to perform on the VPS stage; a movie and a hot chocolate before we all 'try' to have a sleepover?

In the morning, I'll cook up our famous Valewood 'breakfast butties' for everyone and then parents can come and take you home (for a proper sleep, I'm sure). Staff will need to sleep, too, before the school week starts on Monday! Anyway, that's what I'm thinking. Hands up if you think that's a good idea?! 😊

I want to say a big thank you to all the staff who have taken such good care of you all, during your Valewood journey. There are so many to mention! Their dedication has been outstanding. Our Class of 2020 has been a very special class for us all, and that is true- from the get-go. Did you all know that this class was commented upon by Sefton officers at every level; praising you- the children- for your understanding, tolerance, kind-heartedness, independence and compassion as there was not another mainstream class in Sefton like ours, for many years. The way you have all grown up together makes me feel very proud of our Team Valewood. Even when we had new additions to the class, part-way through the Valewood journey, you all got on so well and that is because this is the 'Valewood Way!'

I wish good luck for you all: good luck to all of our talented and skilled Team 6 children, as you take your first, big step to secondary school- be proud of yourselves; always be kind and have courage- believe in yourselves. We are very proud of you and all of your many, varied achievements, over your Valewood years. It's been an absolute privilege being your Headteacher and I am going to miss you all very much. Children, we know that you will share our Valewood Values wherever you go and we wish you all the best. Roll on the next chapter...you will be brilliant! You'll shine! Secondary headteachers always tell me: 'You can spot a Valewood student, straight away!'

Thank you to all of our Team 6 families for all of your patience this term; your continued support and your commitment to our school, over the many years we have been together. For those who are leaving us, without younger siblings still in school, we will miss you all. Good luck and all best wishes for a happy and bright future ahead!

With all my love and thanks, Ms Tantouri x