



HELLO NEW YEAR 7!

My name is Mr Emery and I'm going to be your Progress Leader for your first two years at Higham Lane School.

I'm going to be writing to you weekly between now and the end of term to keep you updated with how things are going at school and share information with you.

I hope you and those around you are still keeping well.

This is my final message to you before we break up for the summer; where have the seventeen weeks gone since the lockdown began? Due to a lot of hard work by the senior leadership team in school, with input and support from all the staff, we are in a position for you begin your potential 7 year journey with us here at Higham Lane School. When you start, there will be plenty of opportunity for you to familiarise yourself with your new school environment, adjust to the new routines and start to develop into the young adults you will become by the time you leave.

I have discussed a range of things in these messages over the past few weeks that I hope you have found beneficial and possibly even bit entertaining. I hope that you have begun to feel that you are part of our school community despite still being very much a part of your present school. The past few months have been very challenging to everyone and over the past few months I have often thought how you will be coping with the coronavirus pandemic and your school closure and how this will impact on you transitioning to us. I am sure without even realising, you have developed many new skills that will stay with you for the rest of your life such as resilience and adaptability. These are skills that you may not appreciate now but definitely will in the future.

Have you thought about your positive experiences during lockdown? It's often very easy to look at the negatives. What have been your biggest challenges that you have faced during lockdown and how have you overcome them? What have been your biggest achievements? I have tried lots of things that I wouldn't normally have had the opportunity to do, some that I will definitely try again and others that I won't. I'm sure we can all agree that lockdown has seen many ups and downs and what is normal now is definitely not what we would have classed as normal 4 months ago.

One thing I would usually be looking forward to at this time of year is our reward assembly where we would have celebrated the fantastic achievements of the students this year, with prizes and certificates. This is also an opportunity for me to say thank you to those who do their best every single day in school and get the 'little things' right – such as being punctual, having your equipment, saying good morning and being ready for a day of learning. It's not always those students that achieve the top marks that receive the rewards, it's those that try their best and take on tasks that they know will find difficult or challenging. We have missed two of these due to the lockdown which is disappointing so I can't wait to have the opportunity to celebrate all the good things you do at the end of the autumn term.

Have a great summer, stay safe, relax and re-charge, because if time passes as quickly as it has done these past few months, September will soon be here.

Stay safe.

Mr Emery

