



WILLIAM HARDING SCHOOL

Aim high... Work hard... Be kind...

## Praise 2020

This time of unprecedented change has affected us greatly in the way we educate, work and live. It has been a brave new world of reinvention and a time to remain hopeful and to share the positives around us.

Thank you to all those staff who have been in school, day in and day out, selflessly putting yourselves at risk to support our pupils who needed us. For our pupils who were safer in our care than at home and for those whose brave families worked to keep the country going. Thank you for standing beside me and the SLT in ensuring we could open and run the school safely.

Thank you to all those staff who have been WFH (Working from Home) supporting the staff and pupils in school, resourcing the school, completing CPD and protecting the NHS to ensure they were not overwhelmed. Thank you for working from home and for remaining part of the WH team throughout.

*Please celebrate our survival and success as a school with your colleagues – we have worked incredibly hard and it has rightly been recognised.*

## ***Parental praise***

**Just wanted to say a big thank you for the home learning packs - we are having great fun every day with structured learning time.**

**We hope you are all keeping well and looking after each other.**

**Best wishes,**

**The Thomas Family, Daniel, year 5 & Jessie, year 1 XXXX**

Thank you to all the staff that have looked after Charley and Evie for the last two days, although a strange day they came home full of joy yesterday having had a lovely day. Thank you to Mrs Bone as well who reassured me.

Many thanks for everything.

Keely and Duncan Ashby

Please pass on my sincere thanks to all of your staff for their commitment to children and families. I hope you can all look after yourselves and your own families as much as possible during these strange and challenging times.

See you soon.

Emily (& Daniel!) O'Neill

**Thank you for everything you are doing right now.**

**Please send my thanks to all staff there right now; as parents we greatly appreciate all your communication right now.**

**Take care**

**Claire & Raj Panchal x**

As a parent at the school I just wanted to say how impressed I have been over the last week with how the school have managed under extremely difficult circumstances. The communication during this difficult time has been fantastic and I am amazed how quickly things have been put in place to support pupils and parents at home for the foreseeable future.

What a fantastic team at William Harding.

I just wanted to say how impressed I have been with all of my boys teachers this year, Mr Dinham, Miss Baldwin & Miss Gadbury. They have all had a real impact on the boys.

Wishing you and all the staff best wishes for the challenging times ahead and in my role of parent Governor I will be available to support the school in any way possible.

Best wishes

Jo

I have posted on Facebook my upmost gratitude during this difficult time to all William Harding staff. We are working in the NHS and facing this pandemic saving lives. I would like to highlight that you guys are also saving the lives with us. Your making sure our most precious children are being kept safe and your communication and dedication has been exceptional.

Thank you so much again.

Kind regards

Mrs Pinar Joshi

As we get to the end of term I just wanted to pass on my thanks, please can you share with the mentioned staff to give them the acknowledgement they deserve.

The staff manning the gates since return to school have been outstanding. They have freely chatted to parents and maintained a friendly welcome to school so very important on the initial return, this in addition making sure distancing is adhered to. Please pass on our thanks to Mr Lambourne and other staff in Foxglove for their support to form the bubble and continue to bring the children together. Jake has thoroughly enjoyed his return to school. The home learning has been well structured and information was so much more than many other schools have received, we value the time put into creating the content.

Miss Browne was exceptional on the class Zoom today. She was enthusiastic, friendly and patient throughout and ensured each child had their time to share and bringing out those who were shy. Please pass on our gratitude for her time. It was a wonderful idea to bring the classes together and a joy to witness an occasion I wouldn't normally see as a parent!

Again please pass on our enormous gratitude for everything Mrs Willis has done to support Jake's development and the time taken for the personal touch and content of his report especially being so busy. May you all have a wonderful summer and hope that September brings a more 'normal' return to school life for all.

Kind regards  
Sarah Simmons

**Just a quick note to say Jessica & Daniel really enjoyed meeting Miss Sisk and Miss Wainwright in their zoom calls this afternoon.**

**It was great for the children to see their classmates and talk about how exciting school will be in September.**

**Thank you for making this happen.**

**Caroline Thomas**

Thank you very much for looking after our daughter Ami during these challenging times. Me and my husband are both NHS keyworkers and have really appreciated the schools staff support during this time, so we can both continue to work.

With Kind regards,

Mrs Sally Burns. Parent of Ami Burns, year 4.

Good afternoon. Many thanks for posting the video and meeting Mithraa. It was a surprise and delightful feeling she expressed. The school website is very user friendly and easy to access/navigate and that's is fantastic. Once again thank you for taking the time to respond. I myself am a keyworker, but chose not to send my children into school setting, well done for all your hard work and support for us and everyone. Nia Mai Miss Griffiths

We convey our heartfelt thanks to you all to help us and keep our chin up in this difficult time.

Mitthra's Mum KS2

Really appreciate all your efforts and support offered.

Kind regards

Meena, Mum of Mithraa year 3

I am so happy – thank you all, you are were doing such a fantastic job and you are trying to do some much for so many different needs of families. You are a forgotten part of the front line and are being under-appreciated for the vital role we were playing.

Michelle Mead year 3

**Thank you for everything you are doing to help keep both the staff and the children safe at these unprecedented times.**

**Kind regards**

**Liz McKenzie - parent**

We just wanted to say thank you for all the hard work that went into today. Charley and Evie had a great day at school. For Evie she was slightly unsure as she returned to a teacher she did not know and was in a different classroom to what she was used to. She had a great time with Miss Furness and loves having a desk and a pencil case (that was a highlight for her!) Charley returned to Miss Leaver and was instantly at ease as he saw a friend from his class also entering the same door. Both children chatted away happily about the great day they had had and explained all the changes that they had seen within the school.

We just want to say a big thank you to Miss Furness and Miss Leaver for making our children feel safe and happy.

Many thanks

Keely and Duncan Ashby

**I want to thank you for agreeing to set up the school with an account for the Royal Academy of arts young artist summer show. because of this Jess Hansen Year 6, Warwick, has had one of her paintings selected for the online exhibition and for their on-site exhibition (when it happens). So, Thank you**

**Mrs Gemma Hansen**

Just wanted to express my sincere thanks to all the staff who made the return to preschool so lovely this week. It was uplifting to see so many smiling faces, from a safe distance. The drop off and pick up system was so clear and organised. All the guidance we received prior to returning was very comforting and thorough. Our daughter settled in

well and immensely enjoyed being back.

We will not forget the continued support, reassurance and care you have offered during this unprecedented time.

Thank you.

Sarah, Kevin & Matilda

I am writing to write to express our heartiest gratitude to everyone at William Harding School, who worked so hard to reopen the school to the pupils after the lockdown.

I must appreciate the fact that it was very nicely planned and executed keeping all the government guidelines in place.

And above all, unlike some other schools, being able to keep the school open to the children fulltime, five days a week was fantastic.

My child Pranshu Datta, who started in his new bubble in Bluebell class was happy to return to school, though he missed a few of his other friends. So once again, a big thank you to all of you for such hardwork during these trying times.

Best wishes from Pranshu's family.

Kind regards,

Mrs Sanchita Datta

Jasmine is super excited to return to school in Year 1 next week, she understands school life will be very different but this hasn't reduced her excitement to return!

I wanted to thank you for all the home schooling work you've been supplying, it's been challenging some days but in the main we've focused on maths & English & have found it very rewarding; the girls have enjoyed some kind of structure as have we. We'll still be using Priya's home schooling while Jasmine is in your wonderful care but I wanted to thank you & to say we really appreciate all the hard work that must be going on; I feel for you all & I wanted to show our appreciation.

I hope you can soon have some time off; I know this is very much deserved...

Stay healthy.

Many thanks 'The Panchals' 😊

Just a quick note to say a big thank you - Jessie has had a lovely day with Miss Brown in Rose class. Your care and attention to all social distancing requirements is fantastic and appreciated.

Thank you all.

Caroline Thomas

Please accept the enclosed Amazon Voucher as a gesture of appreciation for everything you and your team have done to keep the pupils of WH safe. I hope this will come in useful to purchase some new resources for the school.

My youngest son Finley returned to pre school on Friday and my son Samuel in Year 1 returned today.

The measures in place are excellent and have obviously been well thought out.

Kind Regards

Natalie Costa

It's hard to believe that we've been back at school for a week already. I'm sure this has been an exhausting week for you and your team but wanted to drop you a quick note to offer a parent's perspective on the week. My son, Oliver Sin, returned on Monday, in Bluebell class with Miss Furness.

During the week Oliver has:

- loved being back at school and seeing his friends
- come out full of energy, telling me all about his day
- enjoyed learning with his teachers and felt very comfortable with Miss Furness (so lovely to see her smiling face as she greets them every day!)
- settled into the new routine and adapted well to the changes that have had to be made.

Oliver has not:

- been upset, anxious or distressed at any time
- felt overwhelmed by the changed environment.

As parents we prepared our child as much as we could for the changes and then had to hand over to you and your team. You've done an amazing job. We are so grateful that our son attends a school which has put so much effort into supporting the children and parents during this time.

I'd also like to thank you for the lesson plans, teaching support and communications during the previous 2 months. Home schooling was hard but it would have been so much harder without the support we had from the school. We're very aware that many schools have provided little in this way for pupils and parents and are appreciative of what was available to us.

Thank you for the immense amount of energy and effort which I know has gone into the home schooling and re-opening. Please do pass this on to everyone in your team as I know this has been a joint effort across management, teaching, office, caretaking and other teams. When I spoke to you on Monday I mentioned how vocal the critical minority can be - I can't change that but I hope that some positive feedback will at least reduce the impact of the negative few.

Best regards,  
Deborah Sin.

Harriet came back to school today and she's had an absolutely wonderful time! Thank you very much, you're all doing a fabulous job in really difficult times.

Kind regards,  
Donna Stevens

As the second week finishes I thought I would send a quick email about how I have found it so far from both a staff and mum perspective.

I was a bit worried about starting in a new area but so far I have absolutely loved it. I have felt so supported by everyone down in reception and haven't felt like a nuisance with my many questions! Kayleigh especially has been amazing and I feel like I have settled well into my new role down in reception. The guidance has been great from the SLT, and I appreciate you poking your head in to make sure everything is okay.

As a mum I was very anxious about James returning and I originally believed if I could have kept him off, I would have. But in these two weeks back he has settled back very well, doesn't seem anxious about any of the new routines and is really enjoying being back at school. I was worried that he wouldn't have any of his friends in with him, as he didn't really know many of the children in his class. However, with some guidance from Miss Brown (he is slightly socially awkward like me!) he has now made some friends that he happily talks about and plays with. Seeing him during choosing, he is always happy and smiling and I honestly believe he has made progress just being back these two weeks. Any concerns I have had I have been able to talk to Miss Brown about, with her being able to put my mind at ease without hesitation.

Just wanted you to end the week on a positive and say I'm very grateful for everything you do, both as a member of staff in your section of the school, and as a parent. Have a lovely weekend 😊

Kind regards,  
Rachel Furness

Dear Mr Palmer,

I would also like to say thank you for your hard work over the past few weeks. Jamie has loved being in your class and is so enjoying being back at school.

Kind regards  
Kimberley Caldicott

I just wanted to drop you all an email to say thank you so much for all the effort into getting George back to school. He is like his old self again.

Kindest Regards  
Michelle Hughes

You are all doing a wonderful job! A shame that certain parents cannot see it, thank you so much to each and every member of staff in the school that are doing their job to ensure our children are safe, happy and protected. It doesn't go unnoticed.

Kind regards  
Jade Moore

I would like to pass my sincere appreciation to the school for ensuring the parents still had an end of year school report - such a wonderful thing to share with our little humans after all that they have been through recently. I would also like to extend my gratitude and praise to Mr Fuller, for his ability to write such a characteristic report that captures JJ perfectly. A priceless gift after many challenging weeks.  
Again, thank you!  
Anne-Marie

Hello Becca,  
Thank you for your email and thanks to you all for all good work that you have done. We are glad to see Eric's happiness in spending time with you at the nursery at all times. Thanks again! We wish you all a good summer and all the best!  
Best regards,  
Marius Aionesei

I just wanted to say how impressed I have been with the organisation at school for Year 6 and now Year 5 returning. Turning up at school for the first time was quite daunting for the children but there were staff on hand to help guide them and to reassure them entering the school grounds. George is absolutely loving school since he returned last Monday. It has made a real difference to him being able to see friends and to have a bit more structure to his days again.  
Joshua was extremely anxious about returning to school and I was quite concerned about him. He hasn't seen many people at all for the last 3 months and was becoming more and more hesitant to leave the house at all. He was also concerned about having fallen further behind at school.  
He has come out of school beaming and has had a wonderful day. The difference in him is obvious after just one day. Thank you to all for the hard work in ensuring that the children can return safely it has had such a positive impact on them.  
Kind regards  
Jo Pearson

I would like to thank you and all the teachers at preschool for how you have looked after my son victor. Victor has come a long way from when he started last year. I cannot thank you enough, I really appreciate all the efforts you have instilled in victor.  
Victor will really miss you all. His world revolves around you his teachers, there is no day victor doesn't mention one of his teachers, which shows the attachment he has built with you all.  
Thank you so much for all your help and efforts. We really appreciate it  
Kinds regards  
Esther Isiuku

I'd like to thank you for all your help & support over the last year; especially in such recent weird times. I can't imagine how tough it's been for you all but thank you for keeping our children safe & educated both from home & school.  
I wish you a very, very well deserved happy & healthy Summer Holiday.  
Thanks again, Family Panchal 😊

I have just come off the WH website and read through this week's communications including the detailed plans for the full reopening of school in September. Everything is set out in a detailed and easy to understand fashion and I thought that the idea of a video was great. I hope that all parents will read and engage now to eliminate the chances of mistakes and confusion come September.  
Have a fantastic summer break as best as you are able to with your family and friends and I look forward to seeing you hopefully at some point later in the year.  
Stay safe and best wishes  
Simon - Yr 5 Parent



Lovely to have a chance to meet Miss Garner today on Zoom. Oliver loved seeing all his friends again, and was excited to see their new class mascot for Year 1. He also enjoyed hearing about Miss Garner's favourite animal and Disney movie.

What a great way to finish off their first year at school, especially with everything else that's been going on. Thank you to Miss Garner and everyone involved in making this happen 😊

Thank you so much for the zoom calls today. Thomas loved seeing his friends and meeting Miss Burrows. He's gone from being extremely anxious about returning to school to being very excited about meeting his new teacher properly and seeing his friends again. He's a changed boy!

I want to just say what a fantastic idea the zoom call was today. It's definitely helped prepare for September. And we can use the summer to mention things Miss Browne said 😊

Completely agree; the call was excellent. Holly thought Miss Mitchener was lovely and is really excited about Year 4. She loved seeing her friends as well.

Agreed, she was lovely and was so nice to see all their little faces 😊. Lily was hilarious, her confidence is amazing! x

Just wanted to say big thank you to Miss Rodrigues for brilliant Zoom call today. It was very interactive and Amelia feels less anxious returning back to school as she feels she has a lot of common likes as her new teacher. She loved seeing her friends today. Also wanted to take this opportunity to say big thank you to Miss Day for being a lovely teacher and supporting Amelia settle in her new school.

I'd like to echo the positive comments made about the Zoom calls today. It was such a great thing for the children to meet their new teachers and see their class mates again. Miss Mitchener came across very well, she was organised and engaging and very much in control of the call. Thank you

Miss Sisk gave a brilliant Zoom call today well done 👍 I have a little lady who isn't looking so forward to the summer holidays now! Fantastic idea William Harding 😊

I agree. I think the zoom calls were fantastic. So lovely that they could meet their new teachers for next year x

Completely agree 😊 and for them to see each other x

Mr McMahon you did us proud again with the zoom meeting, I think it's safe to say all the class can't wait to have you again, and us parents look forward for you teaching them 😊👏



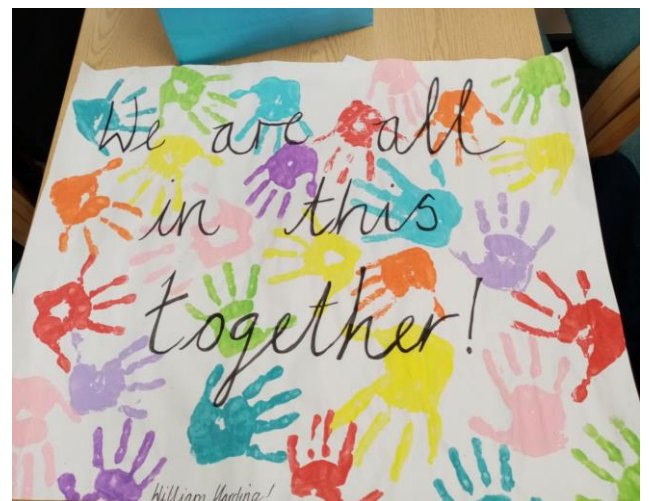
## Community praise



I was working in A&E yesterday and walked under the bridge. The beautiful messages and wonderful rainbows made me smile and really helped me start my shift on a positive note.

Thank you, William Harding.

From Julie, Member of the community



As well as creating wonderful art for our classrooms and school environment, pupils and staff have also created art to inspire hope for our community as well as providing art to our local Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Our School Values are; Perseverance, Respect, Inclusion, Honesty, Responsibility and Collaboration



The Dony family brought in coffee, tea bags and cakes for staff. Dad asked us to provide some art work for the hospital patients on the wards.

Hi all

Hope everyone is well and safe.

This is a message my friend and parent

of WHS put in her FB page yesterday.

She also said how proud she felt to be part of WH when she saw the display.

Take care everyone.

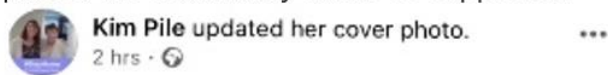
Nina Lewis



Hi all

A friend who lives on the estate has seen the display on the green fence and has changed her cover photo on her Facebook account.

She said she felt quite emotional to see what the children had done and very proud to be part of the community that is so supportive.



Nina Lewis

Hi all,

I thought I would share with you this tweet I saw this morning on twitter. It is so great to see positivity being spread by William Harding in these tough times! Jordan



Dear Miss Cotchin

Hope you are well. I must thank you for everything you and the school do for the children in this difficult time.

If the children could do some painting with the "keep smiling" theme when they do artwork during the school day. This was an ask to me from one of the ward managers in Stoke Mandeville Hospital. They would like to put this up on the windows for patients.

Keep well and stay safe.

Best wishes,

Dony, Programme Manager at Bucks Healthcare NHS Trust.

This fence work is all amazing!! Well done William Harding, you are going to be featured in the SEN newsletter next week.

Many thanks

Tia Sohi (SEN team BC)

## Staff Praise

Well done everyone!

Shows that all the hard work is paying off, I have heard nothing but praise from everyone I've spoken to!!

Kind Regards  
Steph Zannini

Hi  
I think you are doing amazing with the school in this current situation. Stay safe.  
Kindest Regards  
Cara Underwood

Dear Trudy,  
Thank you for that amazing gesture (LOA). That is very kind. I am proud to be part of the amazing William Harding team.  
Kind regards,  
Zoe Cookson

Well done and thank you Trudy on such a fantastic job, you and the rest of the SLT have worked so hard in ensuring that our school is a safe place for us all!

I have been making regular phone calls to my team of TA's WFH in KS1 to check on their wellbeing. I feel that I need to share with you that I have noticed recently that this is now needed more than ever as some of our TAs are beginning to struggle to remain optimistic and motivated as the lockdown continues especially for those that have been shielding since March. Some TAs are trying to home-school their own children alongside doing their own work which is a great juggling act and some are generally finding the whole lockdown procedure overbearing and isolating from either being a one parent family or just missing school/work routines, their family, friends and work colleagues. After speaking to some of my TAs, their comments were:

'Thank you for calling me, I feel better now that I have spoken to you today'  
'I feel more motivated now to get on with that idea you gave me'  
'So lovely to chat with you, I was so worried about .....

Kind regards,  
Angela F

The praise we are receiving from parents is well deserved as it has been such an incredibly difficult time for us all and you have pulled us through this and directed us to continue not only with our great teaching but to stay positive and focused on what we all need to do for ourselves as a school but also our wonderful children!

I feel very blessed and thankful to have you leading us at William Harding School.  
Thank you for your continued strength and drive.

I had many comments when I was on the playground yesterday from happy and appreciative parents. Good work all!  
Kind regards,  
Abi Brydon

There were lots of positive comments of social media too! Well done teachers for making the children feel so welcome. :)  
Kind regards,  
Daniela Willis

## Local Authority Praise

Dear Colleague,

I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for the way you have responded in these unprecedented times. Keeping our schools and early years settings open to those pupils who need to be there for the reasons that we all know, despite the fear that everyone is experiencing right now, takes an altogether different type of leader, if not a superhero. Being brave, kind and disciplined every single day whilst managing uncertainty is not easy and I want you to know that this is appreciated beyond measure. Equally, I do not underestimate the impact that this is having on you personally and your families.

Tolis Vouyioukas, Corporate Director, Children's Services

I want to say how grateful we are to all our schools, early years and childcare settings across Buckinghamshire. Our dedicated staff have gone above and beyond in so many ways to support our children; staying open where possible throughout the lockdown period to continue to provide care and learning to our vulnerable children and children of key workers, as well as offering alternative learning options for most other children who have stayed at home. We thank all school and early years leaders, staff, nursery owners, committees, governors and trustees for their monumental efforts. Simon James, Service Director: Education

I am very impressed with what you are achieving at WH and how well the re-opening has gone and what you have put in place to support pupils and staff. It is impressive that the offer to pupils is for 5 days and the speed to which you, as a large school have reopened safely. You have also reopened to Pre-school when many other settings are not reopening at all and reopening to Reception when many others have not reopened yet. You have been ambitious in the high numbers of pupils you are open for, which is much more than other schools, as well as your Home learning continued offer.

You all deserve a well-earned break but especially how you have managed a large school with such diverse families – you have done a great job, exceptional!

Yvette Thomas, Equalities and School Improvement Manager

I continue to be proud to be part of the community of Bucks headteachers and our collective effort to run our schools and support our children and the wider community. Another headteacher reminded me that we have had almost 200 pieces of guidance issued since we went into lockdown. We have each managed to process this level of information while keeping our staff and children safe and well. You are all amazing.

Rebecca, Chair of Primary Executive Board

## Government Praise

'Thank you for stepping up to this challenge with such dedication and determination. I know that you have moved quickly to implement last week's announcement. Over the last few days, I have heard extraordinary examples of school leaders and teachers responding with flexibility, pragmatism and creativity – demonstrating true civic spirit in unparalleled circumstances. On behalf of the prime minister and the entire government, thank you once again for all your hard work.'

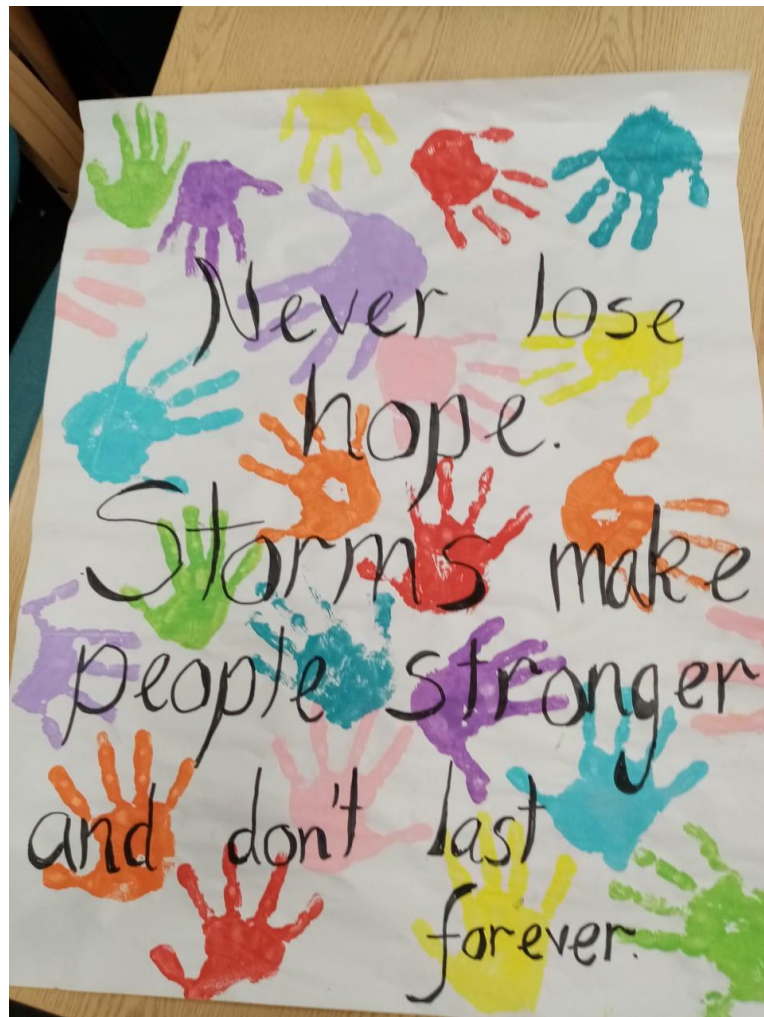
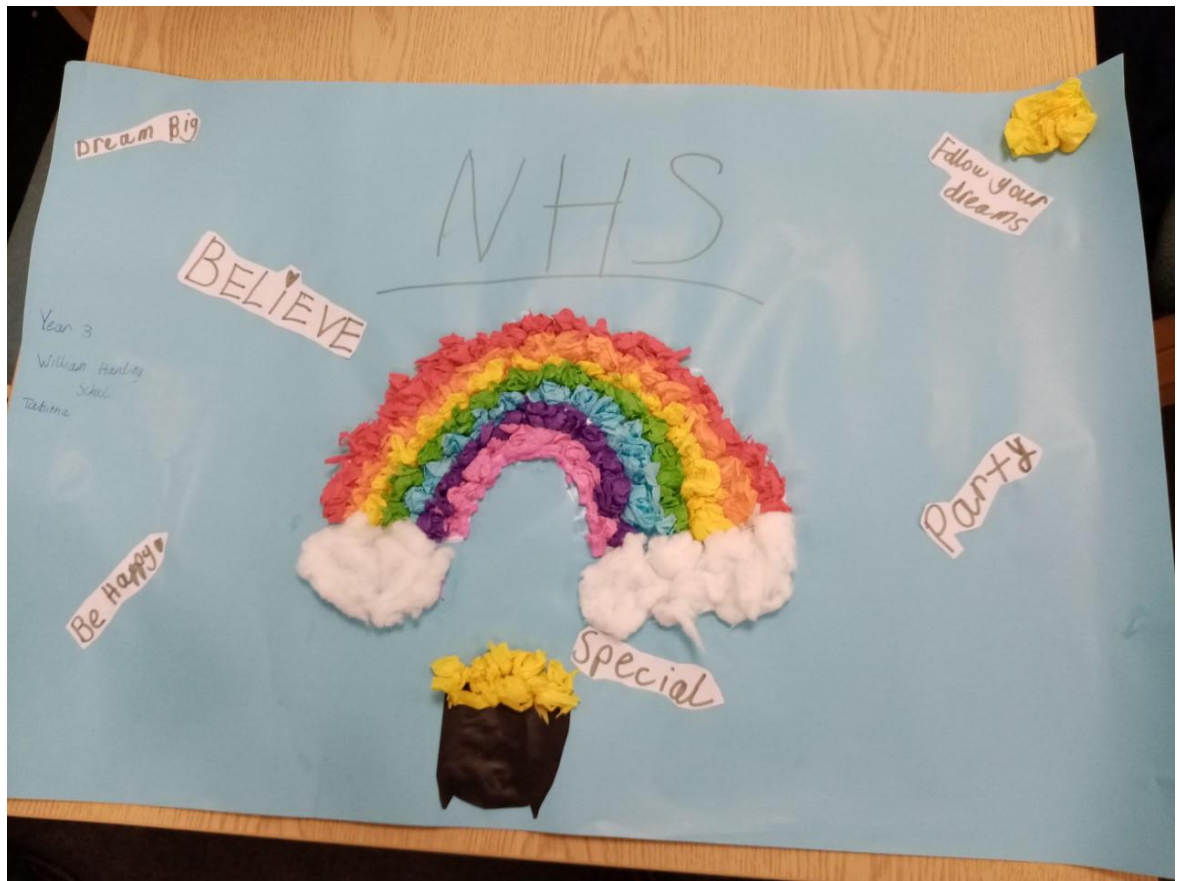
Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP, Secretary of State for Education

As you start to look towards your summer break, I hope you are able to recognise the scale of your achievement in ensuring pupils have continued to learn during this period. I know that schools have been working tirelessly since 23 March to support the most vulnerable children and the children of critical workers in school, alongside providing remote education for those children and young people who have remained at home. Since 1 June, you have opened your doors to increasing numbers of children and young people and I am very pleased to see that 1.6 million pupils are already back in school. I am deeply grateful for your efforts.

On behalf of my colleagues across Government, I offer my sincere thanks for everything you have done and are continuing to do as we respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP, Secretary of State for Education





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