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| **High Ercall Primary School** | |
| **Parish Council Annual Report** | |
| **Sarah Roberts, Headteacher** | **Date: April 2021** |

**Current school numbers: 141**

Clearly it has been a very different and difficult year in school – from the lockdown which began with the closure of schools for all but key workers last March, through to the return of all the pupils in September, and the most recent lockdown in January. However, the school is in a strong position because of the staff team and their response to such a dynamic situation. The strong and positive relationships we have with our families has enabled us to offer both emotional support, and clear remote and school-based learning, no matter what the external circumstances.

School looks very different this year to last year. Classes have operated as bubbles with consistent staff. There is no shared lunch in the hall – but we have an efficient system in the classrooms which works well. We have a class in the hall to accommodate the expectations for forward facing tables in all classes. Classes arrive and leave at slightly staggered times – and this now works successfully to reduce the potential for large groups of parents on pick up. Staff have taken on board extra regular cleaning of touch points and key areas and at present we have split the staffroom to reduce numbers of staff together. We all wear masks out of the classrooms and around the site.

That all said – the children have adapted brilliantly to these changes and accept it as the ‘new normal’ for the moment. The staff body works as a collegiate team – and deserve commendation for their dedication to getting it right in school through this year.

I very much hope that through the remainder of this year we can start to ease back on some of the restrictions – allow some mixing of classes, start back up with ‘fun’ sport clubs (which has always been at the heart of our extra-curricular offer), holding whole school assemblies and maybe even events with parents on site. We await next steps as directed nationally. We are planning though, to offer sports clubs to our class bubbles to give greater social and physical opportunities. We are also booked in for swimming lessons this year – something we missed entirely last year. We would be very grateful for any support the Parish Council for offer with regards to the financial cost of the transport for this. The refurbishment of the little outside area for Class 1 is also a priority as we develop and extend our use of the outdoors for all our classes.

**Priorities for the school year as at September 2020:**

* Recovery curriculum and use of the catch-up funding to support pupil progress and attainment
* Emotional health and wellbeing of staff and pupils – including making changes to the curriculum offer to increase physical activity, use of the outdoors and support relationships
* Complete the development of our new school curriculum – ongoing through the year, including website development to share this with the community
* COVID compliance, risk measures and Health & Safety
* Continue to sustain the strong culture of safeguarding
* Improve and develop the playground space – involving the children with their ideas to improve its use and also ensure accessibility for all our pupils.

Many actions have been in place through the Autumn and Spring terms to support these priorities – actioned through the Termly development planning and monitored through pupil outcomes, teacher knowledge of pupils, meetings with parents, Governor review across school.

Sarah Roberts

Headteacher