



Dear Families and Carers,

I hope that you are staying safe as restrictions are eased.

Thank you for your continued support and patience during such a challenging school year. It is greatly appreciated. Schools can not do the job they do without the support of our families. I understand the difficult times for families when bubbles have had to be sent home and the negative impact this has had on our children's learning. This is as worrying and frustrating for our schools as for our families.

As the end of the school year draws to a close, I realise this is the second school year in which our schools, staff and families are still grappling with the impact of the pandemic. No one could have predicted this state of affairs. How our schools have managed the last 15 months with two school lock downs and implemented an exemplary on line offer, is nothing short of heroic? The GST are so grateful for the leadership of our schools during this time and for all the hard work that the head teachers and the staff have undertaken, often going above and beyond to support our children and families. They continue to provide wonderful learning environments in which our children thrive.

We applaud the efforts that all staff have made to manage a confusing and contradictory stream of information and misinformation. I know as I write this there is still no clear guidance about what to expect for September. This uncertainty is extremely wearisome for everyone. But I know our schools will continue to do the absolute best job they can to create an oasis of calm amidst these turbulent times. They have and continue to have our grateful thanks and admiration.

I hope that you will be able to enjoy some sort of break with family and friends and return refreshed for the challenges that are undoubtedly ahead. I think the sheer resilience of our families and schools is something to celebrate. We are at our strongest when we work together.

I look forward to working with you all next year and thank you for continued support.

*Karen Elliott*

Chair of the GST