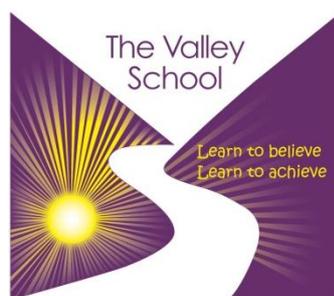


**Headteacher:**  
Corina Foster



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Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## THE AMAZING FUTURE OF THE VALLEY SCHOOL

I suspect that we will all be glad to see 2020 draw to a close, because it has been a tough year for everyone. But look at what we have learnt!

- The simplicity of life is precious
- Walking outdoors and getting muddy is not just for the little ones
- Home baking is a family affair
- Our children are so much more resilient than we ever thought
- Interacting with others is more valuable than we knew
- Learning takes so many forms
- Teaching is not as easy as it looks
- Online shopping is not as complicated as we thought
- Hugs are a privilege and a necessity
- However bad I look on a video call, it is worth it to see and laugh with others
- It's tough being cooped up for this long, even with those we love
- Masks are the latest fashion accessory
- And so much more...

I am extremely proud of our pupils and how they have embraced new routines and focused on their learning, enjoying being back together. My staff have continued to work tirelessly and to cope with so many contingency plans and unpredictable challenges.

The beautiful Manasa award has already been presented to some of our pupils and will continue to represent the resilience, inspiration and determination that she embodied. She will never be forgotten and the butterfly motif will continue to remind us of the struggle to beauty that is part of our pupils' lives. We were very privileged to share her life. Our hope is that her family can begin to enjoy some positive memories amongst the sad moments.

We are all very excited at the prospect of a new set of buildings and we are hoping to get to the planning stage by Easter of next year. We have grown The Valley School from the heart out and establishing a place for it to continue to grow is a huge privilege. Our children deserve the very best.

Many of you will know that I have been involved with The Valley School for many years and have worked here since 2012. I am very proud to have led the school to



what it is today. It has been, by far, the most exhilarating, and proudest journey of my entire career. It is fitting, therefore, that this is the place from which I will launch the next stage of my life adventure. I have announced today to my wonderful staff and Governors that I will be retiring on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2021. I will always reflect on it as the best job in the world, full of both tears and joy and a unique privilege.

We have a whole lot of living and learning to do before then and I can't focus on how unbelievably hard that will be just yet. Please don't start saying your goodbyes – I don't have that much waterproof mascara.

The process to recruit a new Headteacher is long and complicated, especially if you are fully determined to involve both staff & pupils and to get the right person to take the school on the next part of its journey. I wanted you to hear it from me, as you are all an extension to The Valley family, which is hugely precious to me.

We will have the biggest party ever in July 2021 – you are officially invited.

Thank you again for your support and compassion. Enjoy your Christmas festivities. My heart goes out to you if you have an empty chair this year – I hope that none of us ever has to face a year like 2020 ever again.

With my best wishes and kindest regards,

Corina Foster

Corina Foster  
Headteacher