



**Rattlesden Cof E Primary Academy**  
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20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear all,

A few lines from me to bring us to the end of 2023, and a look forward to next year. This term has certainly had its challenges, mainly in the form of the poor weather and getting our children to and from the school. I am much more in touch with the Parish Council now, who has one of its members on our Governing Body, thus strengthening communication and support. They are aware of our views and concerns and are working on our joint behalf to find out more as to why this has been such a difficult few weeks. There are lots of theories out there for sure, but I am really hoping to see some improvements going forward. Thank you for your care and concern. In the Spring I will send out an 'evacuation' plan that has now been shared with the Governors.

Looking back at this term, I feel the school community has become even stronger, working together through fund-raising, celebrations, good and bad times. I feel so lucky to work in a school that has such a high rate of positive parental support, and believe this is quite unique to our school. I always say to my staff that we are all part of a large jigsaw puzzle that makes a safe, happy and successful school for our children to live and grow in. All of our actions and decisions are equally important, and you as parents are a large part of that.

The children have had a lovely day in school today, relaxed and fun, but also sensible and respectful of each other. We started with an assembly sharing some of our favourite songs and stories. I sang the order of the Twelve days of Christmas incorrectly, which sent some of the older pupils over the edge! It was all good fun and we had a laugh. At the end of the day we gathered around the Christmas tree, and opened class presents. Each of the teachers read a favourite Christmas story to the school before home time. It was very lovely and felt rather special.

So, all is left for me is to wish you a very wonderful Christmas together. Although a primary school is definitely the BEST place to work this time of year, I think we are definitely all ready for some peace, calm and no more thinking about the weather for a while! Have a great time everyone, you are all so unique and special.

See you all again in 2024!

Very best wishes,

Helen Ballam.