

10th July 2021

Dear Mrs Howard and all the staff at Oswald Road Primary School,

As our eldest (Thomas) is leaving Oswald Road this year to move on to secondary school, we just wanted to say a massive thank you for all you have done to help him learn, grow and develop into the happy, engaged and inspired boy that he is today, ready to take on the next challenge of high school. We have always found Oswald Road to be a safe, happy, encouraging, creative and inspiring place to be. And both of our boys have had the privilege of being taught by some truly outstanding teachers. For Thomas, particular highlights have been Miss Glendon (now Mrs Turton) who nurtured and built his confidence and joy of learning when he first started school; Mrs Ben Halima, who really enthused and engaged him with her teaching style; and Mr Wheeldon who has ignited maybe lifelong interests in history and puppetry (thanks for the introduction to Swedish Chef!) – not forgetting the custard creams!

And of course, Miss Rowe has been truly outstanding throughout the past year and all the challenges that the pandemic has brought. Her calm positive, compassionate and containing approach has brought much needed calmness and a sense of predictability in the midst of all the chaos. I think this has really helped Thomas to stay engaged, positive and able to learn over the past 12 months, whether this has been in school or at home.

We are so grateful to everyone in the school who made Skeleton School happen. It was such a difficult and worrying time for everyone – but thank you so much to all the staff who stepped up and provided the kindness and normality that our children needed. A special shout out to Mr Farrow too, who has been Marcus' teacher for the past 2 years. I can see the challenge it has undoubtedly been to keep a lively bunch of 7 and 8 year olds engaged and progressing in their learning when they are unpredictably in and out of school. But the support and encouragement he has given to parents during this time and his accessibility throughout has really helped. The small group lessons on Zoom during the latest period of home learning also made a big difference. I cannot imagine what the last 18 months have been like for you all and the difficult decisions you will have had to make, but thank you so much for doing your best for all of our children.

So, as Thomas comes to the end of his time at Oswald Road, we are truly grateful for everything that you and all the staff have contributed to the amazing young man he is becoming. We are so proud of him (biased, I know!!) and very aware that the 8 years he has spent at Oswald Road are a core part of who he is.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Sarah and Adrian Hay

(Parents of Thomas, 6KR and Marcus, 3FC)

