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Dear Parents

You will have seen the letter from Mr Haring and this may have arrived with some surprise. The last few weeks have been quite a whirlwind for many reasons, most notably Holbeton's Ofsted inspection. I am a big believer in support and I have absolute belief in the decisions that have been made to ensure that all children benefit from the standard of education in which we collectively believe.

Holbeton has been my first experience of Headship. I have ridden the rollercoaster of emotions and challenges and you have all been with me on this journey. Our lovely little school weathered the Covid storm and grown stronger. Our children and you all make it what it is.

Holbeton is truly a unique place. There is no school like it and I have been able to compare this school to many around the country and nothing comes close. Whilst I am taking a slight step away, I am not leaving. You will still see me at the gates each week, albeit somewhat less. I will be supporting Mrs Mitchell on her exciting journey ahead, giving her the experience of leading our school for the next term. Mrs Mitchell will lead Holbeton with greatness and ensure it continues on its current trajectory.

I am planning to be back following Easter so my increased absence is only for one term.

Our Ofsted report is glowing and this has been down to the whole team; I leave them in capable hands and I know that every single staff member will continue to give their all, providing a breadth of education and support whilst holding dear to what Holbeton is all about. The report identifies what we do so well and I am over the moon that our strengths have been recognised and validated.

I hope you had a fantastic break and I look forward to hearing about what everyone got up to. I managed to make my London Lego model, learnt some new dishes to cook (thanks BBC Good Food) and finished James Patterson's new thriller as well as plenty of outside walks/pony rides with the kids despite the varying weather.

I will look forward to seeing you all on Friday morning this week.

Best wishes

Chris Rickard  
Executive Headteacher