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Dear Parents/Carers,

I have spent some time today reading the lovely messages and opening the beautiful gifts I have received from you all children, parents and staff. I am absolutely overwhelmed with your kind words and your generosity. Thank you all so very much.

It has been an absolute privilege and honour to work with the children, parents and staff at The Rookeries over the last ten years. I have many happy memories of our school events and celebrations and the children's achievements during this time.

I am sorry that I am leaving in such uncertain times for us all – it is certainly not what I anticipated for my final year, nor what I would have wanted for the children in the school. However, even in the last few months, The Rookeries community have proved that they are strong and together in their kindness and support. The staff at The Rookeries and I have been uplifted and full of pride to serve as part of this community.

As I move on to my new role, I will go with the satisfaction and knowledge that I am leaving a warm, nurturing environment in which all children can flourish. I know that the staff will continue to do their utmost to support the children next year under the leadership of their new Headteacher and I wish them all well.

Finally, I have some fantastic news to share! During the summer months, our EYFS outdoor area is going to be completely rebuilt to a new design. I have been working with Mrs Tonkinson and the Trust in formulating the plans and the whole area is going to be an exciting and stimulating place for the children to learn and develop. I have attached the plans along with this letter so that you can see for yourselves how amazing it will be. Definitely something to look forward to in September!

I wish each and every one of you all the very best for the future – you will always have a special place in my heart.

Yours sincerely

Nicki Ellwand Head of School

NG Ellward