# Happy Holidays!

# Happy New Year!

Dear childcare provider

As we approach the festive break, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you once again for all you have done and continue to do for the children and families of Suffolk.

My team have told me about the great work that you have been doing, your resilience in very difficult times, your adaptability, and your continued desire to improve your practice. I have shared this with senior officers, with County Councillors and with colleagues in the Department for Education as you deserve wider recognition.

Over the past year you have worked closely with us. We have appreciated your feedback on the new ways of working we have tried as we have aimed to maintain our support for you whilst being mindful of the safety of your staff and the children in your care.

Like you, we continue to adapt, and I thank you for your patience. If there is ever anything you feel could be done to improve our service to you, please do let me know, I am always open to hearing your ideas.

I know that a better funding rate is what most of you would want. I will continue to inform politicians of this and hope we can effect a change at some point in the future. Whilst I can't give you this resource, I do mean it when I send my heartfelt thanks to you and your staff. You are greatly valued by me, my team, Suffolk County Council and the families you work with.

As I have mentioned funding rates, I hope to be able to inform you of the 2022-23 revised rates following the schools' forum meeting on 13 January 2022. The changes have to be approved by this group before we are able to publish them.

If you need to contact us over the holiday period, there will be someone available every working day.

I do hope you all stay safe and get a well-deserved break.

Kind regards

*Christina*

Christina Lewis, Head of Service, Early Years and Childcare