

LOWTON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As we near the end of the school year, I'm sure many of us are reflecting on how surreal the past two months have been. The challenges we have faced as a community and in society more widely have been unprecedented, but I have been so proud of the way our community has responded to the pandemic and for the support given to Mrs. Westhead and the school.

Our children, both those working at home and those attending school, have quickly adapted to new ways of learning and have shown both resilience and enthusiasm. It has been a difficult time for our staff, all of whom want nothing more than to see and teach their whole class but who have made every effort to ensure that communication continues, that the online learning provision is of the high quality expected for a Lowton West pupil, and that the face-to-face teaching continued throughout for many of those pupils who needed it.

I am particularly grateful for the support of all parents and carers, who have adapted to teaching their children at home while dealing with work pressures and anxiety caused by this terrible disease.

As many of you will be aware, the government has recently asked schools to prepare to welcome all pupils back in September 2020. The Department for Education has specified a set of actions schools must take to ensure prevention of the spread of the virus, and response to any infection. Please note that these will be in place when the children return in September and I have no doubt that Mrs. Westhead will shortly be sharing with you the school plans for the September reopening.

My heartfelt thanks go to Mrs. Westhead and the fantastic staff at Lowton West who have been absolutely amazing in their dedication and commitment to the children and the school. Although our school 'shut' in March, it has never been completely closed with provision being made initially for our most vulnerable children and the children of keyworkers. The staff have been working tirelessly since then supporting the children, parents, and families both at home and in school. They have been integral in implementing the government's rapidly changing guidance and advice, while supporting families who have been overwhelmed by the changes in society in such a short period of time.

The measures put in place to keep you, the children and staff safe are robust, and have taken a great deal of planning and preparation by Mrs. Westhead and the Senior Leadership Team. It might surprise you to learn that schools do not get advanced notice of government announcements, however, the staff at Lowton West have worked tirelessly to continually modify their plans in light of these announcements.

Moving into the new school year, the governors will continue to support the school in adapting to the guidance issued by the government and ensuring that we fulfil our duties. We will work with an emphasis on supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of the children, families and staff in the next school year.

I wish you a healthy, safe and above all happy summer holiday.

Regards
Brian Cunliffe
Chair of Governors