



Dear Parents and Carers

What an extraordinary year! I am so proud of our school community and how we have worked together to keep everyone safe, everyone fed and everyone learning. Thank you so much for the kind messages of support and thanks we have been receiving – they are very much appreciated. Our children have done so well to adapt to so much change and it has been lovely seeing them taking new routines in their stride when they come into school. I am confident that they will continue to adapt and thrive when we are back in September.

I have enclosed with this newsletter a letter from the council about September. Happily, because we have been open to all classes (on a rota) in the last few weeks, much of what is mentioned in the letter does not apply to our school. I explained in last week's newsletter how we are going to start our school days. At this point the plan is still for us to all start school on Tuesday 8th September. (We will be spending the Monday training day making sure we are ready for the year ahead and putting school back together again after the roofing works.) Whatever your own personal assessment of risk, please continue to model good distancing and avoid gathering in the playground. I have really appreciated the **courtesy and sensitivity** that has been shown by adults on our site and look forward to us continuing like that so that we can avoid lots of signage, queuing and staggered drop-offs!

In September, children's **'bubbles'** will be the whole of their class and so they are going to be in school for the whole week. The government guidance has stressed the importance of being able to offer the full curriculum and we are keen for school to be as 'normal' as possible – the added handwashing is a good routine for life! To keep school open and to be as protective as we can, it is vital that you **do not send your child to school if they, or any member of their household, have symptoms of coronavirus** (i.e. new persistent cough, high temperature or loss of smell/taste.) They cannot return until they have had a negative test result. Please do contact us straight away if this is something your family is experiencing. We may be able to help with access to testing, if necessary, and this information will help us to quickly identify any outbreaks in our community.

There will be a few **changes** to start with. For instance, we cannot meet as a whole school in the hall for singing or assembly – but we will be finding ways to be together with live streaming, using the playground and rotas. Year 6 will, very sadly, not be able to 'buddy' the new children in Reception to start with, but again we will find ways for them to carry out the roles and responsibilities that come with being our oldest children and, of course, make sure the youngest children are supported by adults at dinnertime. Ordinarily we try to plot as many school event dates in the diary as possible from the start of the year. As we don't know yet what will be encouraged and permitted, these will have to be arranged closer to the time. If there are new families in your child's class, please do explain to them what we normally do so that they are aware this isn't our usual system!

We are proud of the work the **Children's Centre** has been doing since March too. They have not yet been permitted to re-open (and in fact are having to face possible redundancies and further amalgamations) but have worked creatively to support their families – including those who live in refuges in our community. This vital work was acknowledged by Alex Sobel MP in a letter this week. Well done Claire and team!



We are not the only ones feeling proud! As I mentioned in today's assembly, the senior councillors and directors of **Leeds City Council** Children and Families have sent a special certificate to all children for the part they played in keeping their community safe. It is attached to this newsletter and they hope you will print it out and present it to your children on their behalf. They say, "... this has been a really troubling time for children and young people themselves, and we can't help but feel saddened about the disruption they have had to cope with. When you think of the vast number of things they have missed out on through not being at school such as performing in concerts, mixing with their peers, building friendships and relationships, moving forward in their learning, and even experiences like taking tests, transition visits to secondary schools and the excitement of preparing for end of primary school parties - it's been really tough for them too.

This is why, as a child friendly city, we want to recognise and appreciate all our children and young people to acknowledge how difficult things have been and thank them for the part they've played in helping to keep people safe." (See social media for further details of this **thumbs up award**.)



Thank you to Ian Martin and Maeve Staunton-Sykes for organising our fun, animal-themed **sports days** this year. It was so good to see the children running, rolling, balancing, dribbling and having fun. Watch out for an announcement about the scores for the house teams! Thank you for bringing the children in for their turn and for resisting the temptation to loiter... we hope that next year we will be able to have spectators again!



Well done to Georgie in Year 1 and to Ian Martin for their dramatic **haircuts** for **charity** recently. Links to their collection sites were shared in a previous email and both have raised a lot of money for great choices. Year 3 enjoyed watching Sue Strange use her hairdressing skills to tackle the rather wild look Mr Martin had developed in shutdown!



I sincerely hope that your families enjoy the **summer holidays** together. I have been telling the children to make sure they keep up with their reading! When you pack away the **home learning resources**, please keep their pack somewhere safe. Whilst we hope we won't need them, we are going to make sure we are ready to pick up remote learning again at any point that local lockdowns or quarantining mean that children have a period of not being in school.

Finally, we were so touched this morning to be presented with this **absolutely gorgeous rainbow plaque** from parents at the school. The words you have chosen for it are fantastic... it really is the perfect memento for this very strange year. Thank you also for the hugely generous collection that we will use very wisely. We really do have the very best school community.



Have a wonderful summer!

Jane Astrid Devane

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← Y6 have been collecting their leavers' hoodies – don't they look great?!

You have been awarded
a big Child Friendly
Leeds thumbs up!



We are



Thanks for doing your bit to help keep
everyone safe, working so hard and
brightening every day.



We are so proud of you!