



North Tyneside Council

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Dear Parent/Carer

We write to you as the school year comes to an end. As we reflect, the full impact of COVID 19 on our communities is yet to be felt and understood. It has been incredibly challenging for all of us both personally and professionally, not least on our children and young people who have missed many days of schooling and for those whose public examinations were cancelled.

We also appreciate that many of you have juggled your own work commitments with undertaking your children's home learning. This has not been easy. We would ask that you accept our sincerest and heartfelt thanks for all you have done.

Our schools have coped admirably, we are especially proud that they have all remained open to key workers and vulnerable pupils throughout this period. They have produced and delivered many hundreds of hours of online learning, and work booklets while managing face to face contact with children in school. Likewise, our catering services have prepared many thousands of packed lunches and food hampers for some of our most vulnerable families. We want to give our thanks to them for their enormous efforts to support our children, young people and communities during these most difficult times.

As we approach the summer holiday period and our schools close, it is important that staff recharge their batteries and complete the essential preparations to welcome all children and young people back to school full time from September 2020. We very much look forward to that.

The new school year will continue to bring many challenges. We must be prepared for any future lock down or periods of further self-isolation, while trying to retain optimism that a vaccine will be found, and our lives can return to normal. In this intervening period our headteachers are working incredibly hard to find solutions to the organisational requirements placed on schools, while grappling with the demands of delivering their curriculum. This is not an easy task, and the decisions

made by school leaders can and will look different in schools. What is assured is that the continued safety of pupils and staff will be their overriding consideration.

May we thank you once again for your continuing patience and support and wish you a relaxing summer.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Jacqui Old in black ink.

Jacqui Old
Director of Children's and Adult Services

Handwritten signature of P.G. Earley in black ink.

Cllr Peter Earley
Cabinet Member for Children,
Young People and Learning