



Layton Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Jonathan Clucas

Tuesday 20th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we complete what has been a very difficult year for all of us, first of all I wished to write to wish you all a lovely summer break, and secondly to thank you for the patience you have shown throughout an unprecedented year. It has been extremely challenging, at times, for all of us.

In fifteen years of headship, I cannot recall a year more challenging for either you, our children, our staff nor our school community. We are operating in a pandemic of global proportions where over four million people have, tragically, died from COVID; some of these deaths have been within our school community; many of you have suffered from COVID yourselves - many staff have also.

We have all, parents and staff tried our utmost to be patient, to live with the restrictions and to follow rules as much as we are able – all our lives have been transformed over the last year and a half and I understand it has been very hard at times for parents and carers to continue to juggle all the demands placed upon them - often school has been at the front line of delivering unpopular messages, and your continued patience, understanding and messages of support have been very welcome; despite the challenges we are all facing, you have supported school. Thank you.

We have all missed loved ones; parents and carers and school staff had all made sacrifices in their personal lives to ensure that children continue to be educated as best as we are able. The school has, at times, been faced with conflicting advice from the DfE regarding school openings; we have done our utmost to ensure these work, balancing the long term health of our community with the needs of educating children. I know that you appreciate what a difficult task this has been; bubble closures affect everyone, and I must thank you for your patience in supporting the school to try and make things work as best they can. It has been extremely difficult for many of our parents, juggling work and home and children's home schooling. Once again, thank you for all you have done.

I will write to you all, prior to the new term in September regarding our procedures around COVID safety and the precautions we shall be taking. Given that cases are currently at 55,000 per day in the country, and are predicted to rise to between 100,000 and 200,000 by the end of August, it seems wise to continue to operate, on school site at least, with some precautions in order that we may continue to operate as effectively and with as many children, staff and parents as healthy as possible. We do know that bubbles will not be operating, but we will make some decisions prior to the new term, once we know what the national picture is, and I shall write to all parents and carers nearer the time. The government guidelines have allowed individual organisations to enforce their





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own policies with regard to COVID safety measures, including the wearing of face coverings, and we shall make an appropriate decision at the right time, with the safety of our community in mind.

Please enjoy the Summer break, take care of yourselves and your families and we look forward to welcoming you back to school in September. For those families and children who are leaving Layton for the final time today, a sincere thank you from myself and all the staff for all you have given and contributed over the time you have been at our lovely, wonderful school. I wish you all the very best for High School, and beyond.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Jonathan Clucas
Head teacher

