

Endon Hall Primary & Nursery School

End of year communication from our Chair of Governors

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is difficult to know where to start, having seen the obstacles and challenges of COVID-19 for families, individuals, schools and businesses across the world.

From the perspective of our school community, entering lockdown in March and replacing schooling with online learning, was such an unprecedented move. Supporting key workers and our community from afar, we learnt a lot and operated differently. Starting back, partially in June, then fully in September - with bubbles set and protective measures in place, aimed at keeping children in school and getting them learning and socialising again, being mindful of the impact this pandemic has had on mental health and wellbeing, and developing our approach accordingly, in order to support everyone as best we can.

I hope that children and parents have felt settled and supported since we returned, and that our community has been pleased to be back this term. Hopefully it feels that we have gradually returned to something closer to normal.

The school reviewed the curriculum during lockdown to ensure that building relationships was at the forefront, with a key focus on mindfulness and project based learning. Core subject skills were assessed and delivery of lessons built gradually. We also made some changes so that bubbles remained in bubbles. This restricted our curriculum delivery in Years 1 - 6, as foundation subjects are usually taught by subject leads. This model changed and children are currently taught all day by their class teacher. The teachers have quickly upskilled themselves and subject leads have supported planning and resourcing, so that all of the foundation subjects can still be taught and children still get the diversity they need. Thank you to all the staff for making this change and the positive impact I know it is having. The core foundations are strong and action plans are constantly reviewed and evaluated to guide our next steps. Thank you to the subject leads for maintaining this focus.

You will be aware that we are making some changes to the school day start and finish times in the new year. This decision has been made to align our school day again, whilst continuing to keep everyone safe. We are a relatively small school and access has always been an issue, but we hope routines will remain safely in place as this subtle change is made.

I must ask all parents and carers to continue to support the school by maintaining social distancing and wearing face coverings around our school at drop off/collection times. We need this support more than ever. We are constantly reviewing our risk assessments and working very hard to protect all children - we need this same support back from the whole community. We have been very lucky so far to have only closed once, for one bubble, and for a short period of time. We want to avoid closing and disrupting children's learning once again. Please support us with this - it is everyone's responsibility.

At this point I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the Endon Hall staff for everything they have done from March through to today. Our staff only ever have the best interests of our children at the forefront of every decision they make and, for the way they have settled our children back in to Endon Hall and kept them safe, in my opinion they are superheroes! Their passion, grit and determination has been humbling and inspiring to see.

Our recent virtual fundraising events, to support school fund, have raised a staggering £1500! We are going to put this towards our IT resources and purchase more laptops that every child will have access to as part of their Computing curriculum. Thank you again.

The governance of the school has not reduced during COVID-19. The work of the governing board is still taking place through online platforms. The communication between the SLT and governors is very strong and dialogue has always remained open and supportive throughout.

Finally, I would like to say Happy Christmas to you all! Have a lovely holiday and please stay safe. We send our best wishes to you and your families, and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. Take care and thank for your continued support to our school and this great community we live in.

Mr D Higgins