



Lingdale Primary School

Friday 10th July 2020

Dear Parents /Carers

We hope this letter finds you all safe and well in these still uncertain times. May we begin by thanking you all for your continued support. We have strived to communicate regularly with all our families.

This is our final letter of the academic year 2019/20, which you should receive alongside your child's report and our usual end of term questionnaire, which I thank you in advance for completing. We felt it was important to report on the amazing achievements of your children both before and during lockdown. We are sure you will feel the same lump in your throats while reading them as we did. Many thanks to the staff who know your children so well and who have taken the time to personalise reports in these unprecedented times.

Please remember school will close on **Thursday 16th July** and reopen for pupils on **Thursday 3rd September**. While we would have liked to remain open during the summer to continue to offer support to many families, essential work on the building will be carried out to ensure school complies with Health and Safety regulations. As you may be aware, the government have announced a package worth £1 billion to ensure schools have the resources they need to help all pupils make up for lost teaching time, with extra support for those who need it most.

MFC Foundation will deliver another invaluable breakfast hamper next week – with arrangements currently being put in place to try and continue this support during the summer break. Please check our Facebook page and website for updates. Food vouchers for everyone for the holidays have been sent- please contact Mrs Bates office@lingdale.org if you have any queries.

On Wednesday, we held a socially distanced farewell picnic to our Year Six pupils; we wish them well in the next stage of their learning journey. They will be greatly missed. Look out for photographs of them on our face book page. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate those pupils who have attended school regularly during lockdown -thank you for trusting us with your children– their smiles and cheery dispositions have not gone unnoticed.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Mrs Crame at the end of the term; she will be sorely missed at Lingdale and we would like to say a HUGE thank you on behalf of all staff and parents to the dedication she has shown over the last two years. Other teaching staff will remain in their existing posts and our valued teaching assistants will be deployed into the year groups where the children will receive the most benefit. Your children are our most valuable assets – something we always hold high in our thoughts. Government guidelines state” Returning to school is vital for children’s education and for their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children’s cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children.”

As a school, we are constantly striving to adhere to the latest government guidelines regarding full opening for schools in September. Please seek reassurance in the fact that staff are working tirelessly to ensure all families feel safe at the start of the new academic year. We are sure you are aware that the new guidance states that “the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly” will apply. Senior leaders will be putting in place proportionate, protective measures for children and staff which will ensure pupils will thrive and progress. Public health advice to minimise coronavirus risks include: grouping children together, avoiding contact between groups, arranging classrooms with forward facing desks and ensuring staff maintain distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible. We will continue to adhere to these guidelines wherever feasible and advocate the “ catch it, bin it, kill it” approach.

The main points we feel we need to communicate briefly are these-Schools have been advised to continue to provide an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects with an emphasis on reading. However, there may need to be changes to some subjects such as PE and music.

- Assessments in summer 2021 will take place
- School kitchens should be fully open in the autumn term
- Schools can resume educational day trips
- School uniform should be worn
- Schools will be permitted to run breakfast and after school activities

- All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable
- Schools should consider revising their child protection policy
- Schools should prioritise identifying gaps and re-establishing good progress
- Schools should put emphasis on pupil wellbeing- involving the school nursing services and behaviour
- Schools should remember the continued importance of remote education in the case of local lockdowns

Please feel free to visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) to read the whole article.

To conclude, we wish you all a peaceful summer break and look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Stay safe

Mrs Thornton and Mrs Norris