



## Howard Primary School

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Re: Challenging times**

As a school, we are aware of the anxiety and frustration that this unprecedented period of school closure has caused to all our pupils, parents and staff. We have worked tirelessly to ensure that we have been able to open as much of the school to as many pupils as possible over the past 3 months. We recognise however that many of our pupils and parents, especially those in years 2, 3, 4 and 5 have not had the opportunity to come in and experience school life again for what seems like a very long time.

We wanted to reassure all of you that we would love nothing more than to have every one of our valued pupils back in school where they belong. Unfortunately, this has not been possible due to the pandemic and whilst we feel a deep sense of duty to all of your children, we also have a responsibility to follow the instructions given to us by our Government in order to help the country emerge from this crisis. We simply cannot say when school life will return to normal, but we can assure you that we will always be here to support you, to discuss concerns or to offer advice.

Our staff care deeply for the academic and emotional well-being of our pupils and we hope this has shown in the quality of remote learning that our teachers have made available for your children to engage with at home. From phonics lessons by Zoom to virtual sports days, it has been a steep learning curve for us all, but we feel that our staff have risen to the challenge and delivered high quality home learning in exceptionally difficult circumstances.

We are always trying to improve on what we can offer, and we are trying to arrange further opportunities for teachers and pupils to interact. We are currently making plans for more teachers to be able to carry out Zoom meetings with their classes and are working on arrangements to be able to provide further support for your children later into the Summer term. We will keep you informed as to when these facilities will be available.

Howard has always been a school that cares and places as much value on emotional well-being as it does on education. We are here to support all of our pupils, parents and staff as much as we can. To our pupils who have not been able to come back to school yet, we want you to know that we are here if you need us. Parents, please remember that you can contact teachers via class dojo or email our Senior Leaders directly at [howardprimaryslt@gmail.com](mailto:howardprimaryslt@gmail.com).

We are here to help and we hope to see you all soon.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie De Saulles

(Head Teacher)

Paul Smith

(Co-Chair of Governors)

John Robinson

(Co-chair of Governors)



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