

## Heaton Park Primary and Nursery School

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Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of the school year I wanted to offer my thanks to all of you for your resilience and support for the things we have tried to do and put in place for our children, through this very difficult time. I also wish to share my gratitude to the staff of Heaton Park who have continued to come into work throughout to care for the children of key workers, as well as setting online home school activities throughout the lockdown period. A particular mention should also go to the small number of key worker children who have been coming into school most days and weeks through this period of closure. They have been brilliant.

We are now planning for the full reopening of school in September and you have already had some information as to what this may look like as you all return. It is important to stress however that all our plans will be subject to change and we will give further updates and confirm our procedures before the start of the autumn term. Although we will do everything reasonably possible to mitigate risk and in line with government guidance on reducing the possible impact of COVID within our school we can give no guarantees. It will be very important that you also play your part here by sticking to social distancing guidelines and talking to your children prior to returning to school about thorough hand washing and other aspects of important hygiene practice, as we will do here.

That all aside, we are so looking forward to seeing all our children back in September and we are intending that as far as is possible the new normal will look a lot like the old normal in as many ways as we can. Learning will initially focus on catching up on the lost time and particularly in the core subjects. It will not just be about the academic but also about returning to all those aspects of school life that we know are so important. We will support our children with returning to school and allow them time to become reacquainted with school life and give them time to talk and share their experiences of the last months if they need to.

It has been a tremendously difficult time over the last months and it has meant that all those lovely things that happen in school and particularly at the end of the academic year have not been able to go ahead. This is especially the case for our Year 6. So I wanted to say a special thank you to them as they move on to high school. It has been lovely to see some of them back in school and we will get to say a goodbye of sorts but it is so sad that they will not have the good bye that they deserve. They have been an amazing year group and we had such high expectations for them. Nonetheless I know that they will go on to achieve brilliant things and I wish them all the very best.

I must also take this opportunity to thank Mrs Stoliar who is leaving us at the end of the week to retire after many years at our school, firstly as a parent then as a member of staff.

Mrs Thomas is also to retire at the end of term after 34 years of service to Heaton Park. Mrs Thomas has been at the school for the entirety of her career and I am sure that she has now taught the children of children. So some of you will have known her as a pupil and a parent. Mrs Thomas will be missed by us all and I am sure you will join with me in wishing her a long and happy retirement.

Finally I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe summer break. Seesaw work will not be set, so you can forget the home learning for a while and we will see you all back in September.

Kind Regards

Paul J Lord

Head Teacher **Mr P Lord**