GAYTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
GAYTON ROAD • HESWALL • WIRRAL • CH60 8PZ

17th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of the academic year 2019-2020, I just want to write to express my thanks to all our families for your overwhelming support and words of encouragement this year. Personally, I have found this year incredibly challenging (it wasn't quite what I had in mind for my first year of headship). The autumn term finished on a brilliant note with a very successful Ofsted and recognition that the school was heading in the right direction. However, worrying news began emerging in the spring term of coronavirus and before long it became evident that it really wasn't something that could be ignored with us entering lockdown on March 20th.

No one at the time could have predicted how long lockdown was going to last for and during lockdown there has been genuine fear, anxiety and worry about the safety of children and staff. I wish to thank all our parents who have had to cope with the daily demands and challenges of home schooling and our critical worker families who have contributed to the COVID response in whatever line of work they have been engaged in. Everyone during this period has faced difficult personal circumstances and all families have had to discover their own unique ways of coping.

I want to personally thank my staff for everything they have done for our families during this period, dealing with completely unprecedented circumstances. They have worked tirelessly throughout and have constantly adapted to new guidelines. Our remote learning has constantly evolved and we have received so many positive comments from parents regarding the quality of work provided through Google Classroom and Tapestry for F2.

I also wish to thank all our Governors who have had to commit so much more time and energy to the role this year and have had to attend more regular meetings to ensure that school has been meeting all the expectations outlined by the DfE.

I think it is important that all families know that as a school we have really struggled with the concept of having a fragmented community with some of our children being able to return whilst others have had to remain at home. We miss terribly all our children who have not been able to return to school and can't wait to welcome everyone back in September. We understand that many children may be anxious about returning as they have not been in school since March and we will do everything we can to settle them calmly and quickly back into school.

September will bring new challenges for all schools. Our children will have suffered loss in many ways; loss of time with family and friends; loss of structure and routine and loss of social interaction. Sadly, some have also experienced the physical loss of family or loved ones as well. Our challenge is to meet the needs

Headteacher: Mrs McAleny
T. 0151 342 3772 • F. 0151 342 8124
E. schooloffice@gayton.wirral.sch.uk • W. gayton.wirral.sch.uk

of our children and community in overcoming the losses our children have experienced in all of the above ways. Children and adults are now having to deal with uncertainty on a scale that has not been seen before and as a school we are developing plans for September to be able to support children with developing strategies to support the emotional needs of all our children.

Finally, a last word to our Year 6 children. I am so pleased that we were able to bring you back to school for some time prior to you leaving. I am so sorry that so many of your leavers' events have had to be cancelled but want you to know that I am so proud of you all. You are an amazing group of children and as a class you consistently demonstrate our school values; I am just so sad that our time was cut short and we didn't get to spend so much time together. I want to thank you for being excellent role models to our younger pupils and for everything you have done for our school over the last 7 years. I know that you will all keep working hard at your high schools and I am sure you will all go on to achieve great things. We have still tried to give you a wonderful send off from primary school with shirt signing, a huge water fight, pizza making, ice-cream eating, a Y6 Gayton movie and of course the wonderful year book (huge thanks to Mrs Clark and Emma for putting the year book together). I just want you to continue to work hard, always believe in yourself, be happy and remember to come back and see us.

I wish all our families a wonderful summer break and we can't wait for September to be able to reunite our whole school community again.

I will be sending out details next week to families regarding September so that you have an idea of what September will look like in school as we prepare to return everyone.

Please remember to stay safe over the summer period.

Kind regards,

Mrs McAleny