



**Endeavour
Schools Trust**
Inspired to Excel

April 16, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It feels like a very long time since I last wrote to you but it is, in fact, only a matter of seven weeks! And what a lot has changed during that time.

When last I wrote to you, we were anticipating Boris Johnson's announcement confirming that children would return to school on March 8th. I cannot tell you how delighted we all were when this proved to be the case. And back they all came, full of smiles and so happy to be back at school. It is perhaps hard to find "silver linings" in the shared experience we have all gone through in the last year, but I believe that I have found one – the generation of children coming through our schools right now, are perhaps those who place the most value on their education that I have experienced in 32 years of teaching! And as for our parents, words fail to express my admiration for all you have achieved in supporting your children whilst juggling everything else this year has thrown at you. You are amazing!

Now, I am not going to pretend everything is going to be plain sailing moving forward – there is still a road to travel! Covid is still out there and it is important that we continue to follow the rules that have been put in place to best protect us. That is why, in the absence of any new guidance from central government, our current risk assessments and arrangements will continue following the Easter holidays. So staggered starts, bubbles, staff undertaking lateral flow tests twice a week, social distancing, wearing of face masks etc, will all continue.

Sadly, there is no doubt that children have been affected by lockdowns – for instance a very small number of children are struggling to adapt to school life, order and routine. As always, and as you would expect, where this is the case, our schools are doing everything they can to support those individuals as well as the other children in their classes. It is important that we all adhere to the mantra "Be Kind," and we are certainly aiming to exercise kindness as part of our ongoing response to this and any other concern that we are dealing with.

I would like to offer my sincere and grateful thanks to the staff across all settings, including the central team. As has become the new "norm" they have managed a range of challenges, situations, lockdowns, re-openings, bubble closures and so on with a smile and always with the children at the heart of their work. I am so proud of them all!

I am delighted to be able to tell you that Mrs Shakles, Head at Crabbs Cross, and Mrs Dunstan, head at Vaynor have both been released from shielding from April 1st and fully intend on being back with us on site as soon as possible! However, they will be working under certain safety restrictions so you will still need to make contact with them via phone, email or teams, rather than face to face. We will be very glad to have them back.

As I write this letter to you, I am sat looking at a beautiful magnolia tree in full blossom, with the sun on my face. Those two things have combined to give me a sense of well being and hope. Given all we have shared since March 2020 I wish I could bottle that feeling and share it with you all. Instead, I am going to offer you a wish for a happy, restful and fun filled time with your children during the two weeks of holiday. Please enjoy your time together with NO home learning, lots of playing (and probably a fair bit of chocolate!) You have all earned it and I know our entire staff have too!

Please stay safe and well and we look forward to seeing you after the holidays for the SUMMER term; how quickly has that come around?

Yours sincerely,

N J WRIGHT
Chief Executive Officer / Executive Head Teacher
Endeavour Schools Trust