



LONG MEADOW SCHOOL

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Dear Parents / Carers

I write to you today with both an element of sadness but also a sense of relief. In all my years of Headship, this year has been the most extraordinary to say the least. Extraordinary in so, so many ways.

For our last newsletter I want it to be one of thanks.

Thank you to all the parents that have trusted us with their children. Whether this was in September by choosing us as the school to educate and care for your child, by ensuring your child returns day by day and year of year, or by trusting us to have our school as safe as it could be for those year groups that were able to return. Thank you to all the parents who have emailed in or stopped us on the gate to say thank you or that we have done a good job. You will never know just how much every single word, gift and smile means to us as a school. Thank you.

Thank you to the current Year 6 cohort. We know that this ending to your time at LMS is not the way we would have planned it. Far, far from how we would have planned it in fact, but thank you for engaging with us either face to face or via Google. We will have a whole year group event to celebrate you and your success as soon as we are able to. Yes, you may become known as the Year 6 that was in lockdown, but to us you are so, so much more. You have brought us so much happiness, joy, laughter and tears. You will never be forgotten by any single one of us at LMS - ever. Your legacy will live on through your installation in school, with your stones and artwork living on forever. We all wish you all the very best. Just remember to be yourself and take every single opportunity that is presented to you. If this time of our lives has taught you anything, it should be to live life to the full as life can be too short.

Thank you to all the other children that make LMS the school it is. We know it has been hard for some of you who have not been able to come in or have chosen not to come in. Please know that we understand this. We understand that you will all have had very different experiences during lockdown but please also know that we will ensure that your return to school will be happy and safe and that we have put lots on things in place to make sure that you continue to grow into the children you deserve to be, both academically and as people. We can't wait to have our school full again, buzzing with learning and laughs. September cannot come quickly enough.

Thank you to the staff of LMS. Thank you for giving up your Easter to make sure that lives could be saved in hospitals. Thank you for keeping the children safe and entertained so they didn't have to worry whether their parents were safe at work. Thank you to the teachers for swapping year groups, teaching children you don't know or were out of your range of experience.

Thank you to our Learning Support Assistants who stepped up and covered classes, to the site team and office team for covering bubbles and supporting our children. Thank you to the Midday Supervisors for coming in to supervise our children, for learning new games and keeping our children safe. Thank you to members of staff who have had to shield, thank you for battling the feeling of guilt whilst doing everything you can from home.

Every single member of our school community, parents, children and staff, deserves a well-earned break now. There is more work to be done in September for all of us, so now it is time for us all to rest and recuperate with the satisfaction of a job well done so far.

We also know that the summer break can be a tough time for children and families. Firstly, to aid this we will not be setting learning for children over the summer break. We want families to be families. Enjoy the outside safely, doing good things that you might have not had the chance to do before. We of course would love to see these, so please keep posting on Twitter - we love sharing these times with you. We will hit the ground running in September, both academically and well-being wise, so for now enjoy the break and enjoy (hopefully) the sun. You will also find attached to this letter a social story that you may wish to use with your children to explain things about coming back in September.

Secondly, MK council are providing a package of support for vulnerable young people during the six weeks of the summer holiday. Managed and funded by Milton Keynes Council, this will include social activities (music, sports, arts and crafts), catch-up academic tuition, guidance and support services, and packed lunches. It is targeted towards children in care, SEND children, vulnerable children and NEET young people. The catch-up summer tuition (delivered via our local supplementary schools) has scope to include any groups identified as being at risk of falling behind, for example, pupils who are new to learning English and those of Black Asian and Minority Ethnic heritage (BAME). To learn more or to book sessions for a child, please use the contact below:

Click and collect lunchboxes, youth clubs, arts and crafts and family support sessions: childrenandfamilycentremangement@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Sports sessions at Sports Central and Bikeability courses: youth@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Summer tuition: ema@milton-keynes.gov.uk

I look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 7th September 2020. Please, please, please ensure you have read the information that went out this week about our opening. It is vital that you know what to do, when, and where. We will need to work together to make this run smoothly. We will have to learn how this works together, so please bear with us.

Rest well and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Philip Gray
Headteacher