



17th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of term is finally here – and what a term it has been!

I want to say a huge thank you to you, our wonderful families, for the support, care and understanding you have shown us once again in such challenging and turbulent times. You have adapted with us to the changes in guidance for the new school year and the continual updates and changes to the government's expectations in education and our communities whilst we all continue to battle this virus and its ever-changing attacks. I know that many of your families have been affected by Covid throughout the year and continue to be so. Sadly, for many, the recent surge in cases in our country, our community and our school means that your Christmas plans have been affected; my sincere sympathies are with you.

Because of your support, we are celebrating:

- ✓ £290 raised for Greater Manchester Children's hospital on Jumper Day
- ✓ Tonnes of donations have left for the food bank to make the staple food bags received there a little more special for families using the bank over the festive period.
- ✓ Through the Christmas raffle and collections at the productions, we raised over £800. This means you have supported 7 families in need to have a wonderful Christmas Day with a hamper made up with everything they need for their food and festivities.
- ✓ We even had a little left over from these collections once all that was done! We chose to send this to Willow Wood Hospice, a wonderful place that serves our families in the most difficult of circumstances and somewhere that I know has supported many of our Dowson families, including my own.

You are all amazing!

We now know that we are facing the uncertainty of a new variant and that this means the Spring term may continue to bring challenges in relation to the virus, perhaps even new ones too but we will face them together as we have done throughout this and last year.

Because of the ongoing nature of the pandemic, school will continue to communicate with you any changes that we need to put in place in order to ensure as much uninterrupted education as possible. I will of course communicate before the beginning of term if there is anything you need to know for the return of our pupils on **Wednesday 5th January.**





DOWSON PRIMARY ACADEMY

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Please be advised to continue taking regular lateral flow tests within your families beyond the end of term, especially where we have issued a warn and inform letter due to cases in your child's class. If any pupils test positive over the next few days, please let us know via the admin email address at admin@dowson.tameside.sch.uk and we can continue to update all of our families.

I hope that you all enjoyed the Nativities we did manage to share with you and hope that the link that accompanies this letter provides you with something to enjoy together as a family as you begin your festivities, especially if you were due to see the Upper School performance that was sadly cancelled. Singing in classroom door ways to try and capture an ounce of the magic can't quite be the same as it would be hearing it in church, but I am sure you'll agree, it's better than nothing at all. Enjoy!

That just leaves me to wish you a safe but magical time spent with loved ones over the holidays.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you all.

Mrs Kathryn Thornburn

Principal

