



23rd July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, that's it! Another year over and another one we will all be relieved to see the back of in terms of the disruption and upset the virus has caused to continued face to face education once again. However, it is another in which we can celebrate children's resilience and determination and thank you for your continued support and perseverance in the most challenging of times – we made it, and we made it, as always, together. Thank you – I continue to be immensely proud of the wonderful school I have the privilege of leading; our pupils and families are amazing and your kind and supportive words that have come into school via report forms, cards, dojo messages and face to face have been overwhelming and are so gratefully received by us all.

It is time now to look forward to the next year and plan for our collective recovery from such torrid times.

We will return to school on Thursday September 2nd to what is billed as a 'normal' year. The government guidance currently describes a world of no bubbles and no isolation of children if not identified as close contacts via track and trace; a world where children can mix again for assemblies and playtimes; a world where we can see parents face to face again and hold events to share and celebrate children's work.

This, of course, all sounds amazing and as a staff we long to go back to those times and are hopeful that all of this will come to fruition. It is with trepidation that we plan for those times though because our hopes have been dashed before. So, with caution, I will share that staggered start and finish times will cease as we return to the normal school day of 8:50am – 3:15pm. There is no longer an expectation to wear a mask on school site, though as with the guidance everywhere, you may choose to continue to do so if you wish. I hope that the guidance doesn't change our plans before we return but will communicate as soon as possible if there is anything you need to know.

Sadly, as you already know, our Year 6 had the final week of their primary years cut short earlier this week. This seemed especially cruel after being the only cohort not to have suffered from a bubble closure throughout the pandemic prior to that. Though disappointed and frustrated, they have all faced this with maturity and understanding and celebrated the silver linings of managing to finally get their visit to Robinwood and complete their activity week.

We will be holding a graduation ceremony for Year 6 in the summer holidays when isolation is over and to allow a proper closure to their time here before they step into the next stage of their education and the big wide world. I will send details to our school community of this date and arrangements in due course, as we would really appreciate anyone who can come down to school for 10 minutes at the end of the ceremony to give them the send off they deserve, coming to share in and support the event. For now though we wish them wonderful times ahead.





DOWSON PRIMARY ACADEMY

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You are all amazing Year 6; the individual personalities that make the whole are unique and special and I know you will always be true to who you are and do what you know is right. Be proud of your resilience and fearless approach to the last two years; well done for all of your many achievements in such a turbulent end to your education here. Now go and show the world what you are made of!

That just leaves me to say a final thank you to Team Dowson. You too have faced the year with grit and determination to still provide the most wonderful, happy and safe place to learn to our pupils and I know that our families appreciate you each and every day.

Have a restful, safe and enjoyable summer doing things that you enjoy with people you love,

With the warmest of wishes and thanks,

Mrs Kathryn Thornburn

Principal

