



10th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We draw ever nearer to the end of primary school and an exciting start to life at Durham Johnston. The last few weeks will have been very strange for Year 6 students and I hope that the final week of term is a positive one for all students and their parents. This would usually be a very important week in the induction calendar, as it would have provided an opportunity for you to meet with senior staff and your child's new form tutor. Our form tutors have recorded messages for their new form classes and Mr Simpson's letter will also identify the name of your form and also the house that students will join as part of our house system. There are many other differences between primary and secondary school and I would urge you to re-read 'Life at Durham Johnston' and the [dedicated area of our website](#).

Mr Simpson has identified your child's form class and form teacher. We work very closely with all of our primary partners when planning form classes and our emphasis is upon students making new friends. Durham Johnston is a comprehensive school and we make sure that each form class has students from a variety of primary schools and who live in different parts of our catchment area. Starting secondary school is an exciting next step and making new friends is an important part of that process, it is also something that we prioritise as part of our Year 7 pastoral support programme. Mr Simpson has also referenced the importance of school uniform as of September and an overview of our uniform can be found on the school website www.durhamjohnston.org.uk

It is understandable that you will be thinking very carefully about September 2020 and I would like to share some initial information regarding the start of the new school year. However, it is also important to keep in mind that September is simply the first month in a 5 or 7 year period that your child will spend with us. We are giving careful consideration to the Department for Education guidance on the full opening of schools in September and will continue to offer weekly updates on our school website throughout August. We will share our approach to health and safety, assessing risk, transport and how we will manage the school environment.

I will write to all parents via the school website as part of a series of 'Friday updates' during August. I would also recommend downloading the school app, which provides alerts when the school website is updated.

We look forward to welcoming you in September.

A J. O'Sullivan

A J O'Sullivan
Headteacher



Headteacher: A J O'Sullivan BA, MA
Deputy Head: R McFadden MEng
Director of Resources: H Charlton BA, MBA

Assistant Heads: J Bell BSc, MA
S A F McArdle BSc
N Weaver BA
M J Wright BA

