



# Hawes Side Academy

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(Registration No.8161246)

Dear Parents and Carers

16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

This has certainly been a term that we could never have imagined or predicted! As we come to the end of this academic year, I would like to say a huge thank you for all your patience, support and understanding during this unprecedented time. Everyone has had their own challenges to face but as a community, we have pulled together and risen to the challenge during these very difficult circumstances. As an academy, we have reflected and listened to feedback from many of you, which has helped inform our planning for September and better prepare us should we face a further pandemic. The last few months have not been easy for anyone, but much has been learnt during this time.

We wanted to share with you the things that we have been doing over the past few months as we are so proud of how our whole community has worked together. We have tried to communicate in a wide variety of ways in order to accommodate the diverse community, which makes up our school. For example, we have communicated by means of phone calls, the learning platforms, emails, app messages, videos and the website. Whilst I know that many of you have appreciated these approaches, we recognise not all these forms of communication may have been your preferred method of contact. I understand this can be frustrating so I would like to take this opportunity to explain the many things school has had to recently put in place that you may not be aware of. Throughout this time, the government has set out a plethora of guidance for schools to follow which we have applied and regularly reviewed and updated with a view to keeping children, staff and the wider community safe. The academy therefore has remained open each weekday since lockdown began, including the Easter and half term breaks and bank holidays; this was to support vulnerable and key worker children as requested by the government. At the same time, we wanted to support children who were not in attendance and therefore developed our remote learning package, which we hope was family friendly and linked sibling learning through themes. This is something we have not done before and was in line with other schools and government guidelines. We regularly updated this offer in line with your constructive feedback.

In addition to remote learning, we have had to appropriately staff school, taking into account individual staff circumstances which have included, illness, bereavement, shielding, isolation and child care, all of which have impacted upon the running of the academy. During lockdown, staff have also been heavily involved in transitional work, liaising with your child's new teacher to share as much information as possible to ensure a smoother start as possible for September. The Foundation Stage team have been liaising closely with the nurseries and new parents and the Year 6 staff have been in regular contact with the high schools. I know some of you have been grateful that this information has been explained to you on an individual basis so I felt it was important to be open and honest with all of you and hope it explains some of the things we have been doing.

**"Everyone Matters, Everyone Succeeds"**

As an academy, we were more fortunate than other schools in the area, to have sent out our annual reports in March, just before lockdown. Luckily, we also managed to have the opportunity for parents to meet with teachers at parents' evening to discuss these reports just before the school's partial closure. We will be running parents' evening in early October as we always do to discuss the children's progress.

This period of being apart has presented many highs and lows for all of us and, as a team, we are aware that when children return to our academy they will all have had many different experiences. We will be working with them using various resources to help us to understand how the children feel and are coping, so we can help them readjust and succeed.

Thank you for all your efforts in supporting the children with their home learning, from either the activities we have set or things that you have done as a family. Education and learning never stop and learning can happen incidentally throughout a child's day. The government's intention was never for parents and carers to replace school-based education; however, you are doing an amazing job and I would like to thank you. When your child returns to school, we will be celebrating what they have achieved at home, then establish what we need to do next, but our focus as always will be for them to feel safe and happy so they can succeed.

### Returning to School in September

I have personally missed the children and we are all very excited at the prospect of them all returning to school in September and we are currently planning the detail around this. We are looking forward to all the children returning on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020. We will be following all government guidance and advice from Public Health England and liaising with the Local Authority over the summer to ensure a safe September return.

We will continue to keep you updated over the coming weeks and we can assure you that our planning will reflect the most up to date guidance. Based on current information, we have put together a ['What to Expect'](#) information sheet that we hope you will find helpful.

As soon as I have more information to share, we will notify you through either the app or text message so please keep checking in. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please do email us at [admin@hawes-side.co.uk](mailto:admin@hawes-side.co.uk) and we will do our very best to help.

Please take care and keep safe and I will be in touch again soon.

With best wishes

Caroline Boothroyd  
Principal