



# SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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**Chair of Governors:** Susan Dungworth

**Executive Headteacher:** John Barnes

22 May 2020

Good afternoon

I hope this letter finds you well as you can be at the end of 9 weeks in lock down? As I write that I cannot believe we have been in lockdown for 9 weeks. Our normal school lives have been totally turned upside down and at times it feels as if nothing is ever going to be "normal" again. It will be but sadly I think it is going to take a long time! So here we are at the end of the half term when SATs would have happened and GCSE and A Level exams would be in full swing and summer activities would be happening.

I would like to say straight away how grateful I am for all the positive messages we have received over the course of the last 9 weeks and most especially as we try to get the schools open for year 6. I am aware that you will have had a lot of letters this week and I am sorry about that especially if you are a year 6 parent but the DFE keeps changing things or giving us more information on a daily basis which we have to pass onto you or change what our plans are.

As it stands, we are going for some partial re opening of the middle schools on 1st June but we will be reviewing everything as we go to make sure it works and it is safe. With regard to the other year groups we are not sure yet what that will look like as soon as we know we will let you know. Some people have asked me what September will be like and the simple answer is I have no idea. I think we will get more information but not until next half term. So, the future is going to have to wait a bit longer!

I am not sure if you were aware that Wednesday was thank a teacher day. I would be immensely grateful if you have not done so could you contact a teacher or support member of staff who works in the Federation and just say thank you for what they do. I tell them on a daily basis but hearing it from you or your children is even better.

I am sure you will be aware that everyone has worked very hard over the last 9 weeks and that includes you and your children. My staff have been brilliant in what they have done but they are shattered and I expect so are you. Therefore, I am saying to everyone have a break this holiday. Unless you are going into the open school for key workers have the week off and do things that are different and are not school work. Obviously follow the lockdown rules! All of us need that break and I have told my staff to not set or do any school work next week. I myself plan to do nothing for the next 4 days. Many would say what's new but I will rise above that comment! Please take the chance to have a break.

Next half term will bring us more challenges as we move forward in the next stage of dealing with and living with this virus but as a Federation and a community, we will meet these challenges head on and overcome them and your support will be a vital part of that.

So, thank you for all your kind words over the last 9 weeks. Thank you for all your ideas on how things could be better. Thank you for all the support you have given that staff and your children. Thank you for being so understanding. Thank you for your patience when we have had to change things. Thank you to the young people for all they have done and how they have behaved. But most importantly thank you for being part of the

federation community that has helped all of us get through these last 9 weeks. Have a wonderful holiday and I look forward to seeing you in the near future.

As always take care and stay safe.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely



John Barnes  
Executive Headteacher