



**Headteacher: Mrs. Jane Mullarkey**

**Deputy Headteacher: Ms Trish West**

July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of this rather strange academic year, I thought I would take this opportunity to share with you all an update on how things may look when we all return to school in September. But first I would like to say a huge thank you to many of you who have sent us some lovely messages and for the many gifts we have received during this last term when we have not been able to see each other very much at all.

By now you should all know who your children's teachers are for next year and you will have had the opportunity to 'meet' with the new team, in order that you are familiar with them come September. You should all have received the end of year report for your children, which was amended this year to include attitude and application towards home learning during the Coronavirus Pandemic. By the end of this week, we will have missed fourteen weeks (68 days) of school, but if your children have been working from home on the online platforms (Dojo and Seesaw), they have not missed out on learning during this time. If there has been a lack of engagement, may I ask that you encourage your children to catch up over the summer in order that they do not fall behind and that they are ready for the challenge next year. I know some of you have had difficulty with Wifi and devices and so have had learning packs delivered to your family home. I hope there has been engagement with this. During the pandemic many of you have faced additional challenges and have had to alter your daily routines to include some home-schooling which has been wonderful to see, but I am fully aware of the difficulties this has also brought to many of you. I appreciate all that you have done and the encouragement you have given during this time which has been incredibly stressful.

In September, we plan to offer more time and support to all children with their mental health and wellbeing. We will be looking at creating more opportunities for children to spend in Forest School and on activities which focus on building strong relationships once more. School will look different, but we will work hard to make learning fun as well as supporting your children to be active learners once more. As you will all be aware, the Government released their latest document on July 2nd which sets out the guidance for all schools to follow for September. Obviously between now and then the situation may change so we may find ourselves with the need to update the risk assessment and review the current plan once more. For now, based on the latest guidance, we plan to start school for all pupils in Y1 to Y6 on Tuesday 8th September and will have a one-way system in place for parents to safely drop off their children in the morning and collect them at the end of the day. The idea is to have a one-way system in place for parents and to open the doors earlier to have a longer time in the morning for children to filter in to the building safely each day. We will have signage and staff in place to guide all of you and I will update you with the detail during the last week of the summer holidays. During the holidays we will be installing some hand sanitiser dispensers throughout the building, outside the main entrances and in the classrooms. We have also organised the classrooms to ensure that all children from Y1 are sitting side by side at tables with all facing the front of the class. For all families with children in Nursery or Reception in September, the guidance is different and children are able to be together in groups as they cannot socially distance from each other. Mrs Rutter has already contacted families and will be providing updates for all of you so you know what is happening. For the first two weeks in September, children will remain in their year groups all day and will be eating lunch in their classrooms. I

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have met with the catering team and we have planned a menu for the first two week period, which will be reviewed after that. Obviously, I am aware that the guidance may change over the seven week holiday, so I will not be sharing any detailed plan with everyone until I have reviewed any updated Government guidance and have adapted the risk assessments and plans for daily drop off and collection.

I would like to thank my incredible team of colleagues who have been working so hard during the last term and have been a pleasure to work with. We say goodbye to Mr Black who has been our temporary teacher in Year Two for most of the year. We welcome Miss Kane to the team from September and look forward to working with her. She has already met many of you during the Year One picnic sessions and has shared some information about herself with you on Class Dojo. We also say goodbye to Mr Henderson who is leaving to begin life as a deputy Head Teacher in Morpeth. We wish him all the very best and thank him for his enormous contribution over the last four years. We welcome Miss Bainbridge to the Year One Team and I know many of you have met her during the recent picnic and outdoor sessions over the last two weeks. I know she too has shared some information about herself through the online platforms and we are really excited to welcome her to the Wingrove family. Mrs Mead has also decided to have a career change and has been successful in gaining a place on a school-centred teacher training course from September. But we are very lucky to have her remain with us for most of the year as we have signed up as a training partner and will support her with her teacher training during the coming academic year. We have also said goodbye to some of our families who are planning on moving out of the area and we wish them all the very best. As usual we bid farewell to our sixty Year Six children, who are leaving us to join their secondary schools, all eleven of them! We have been really lucky to have some of them back at school over the last month or so and have seen all the others when they visited school to collect their farewell gifts and their hoodies. Photographs will be shared on the website soon. My message to them, as always is: work hard; be kind and always keep Wingrove in your heart. Here is a list of their destinations:

Excelsior	Jesmond Park	Kenton	North Gosforth	Sacred Heart	Walbottle	St Cuthbert's	Benfield	Emmanuel	Westfield	Boarding/ Home School
18	11	11	3	2	2	1	2	5	1	4



Today was Year Six's last day with us. It ended with Sabiha and Aiza being presented with a bike for being true Wingrovians in all that they do. Thanks to Dave at Bike4Health for the donation. Well done, girls. I am immensely proud of you both.

So, as a final note, I would like to thank our fabulous governing body of ten people who have offered support and challenge throughout the year, but especially during the Pandemic. It has been a pleasure to work with you all.

Take care, stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all back at school in September.

Mrs Mullarkey