

THE WELLAND PRIMARY SCHOOLS FEDERATION



20th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a very strange school year it has turned out to be!

This last few months, our schools would normally have been buzzing with the excitement of end of year activities – the Y6 performances, residential trips, away-days, sports days, taster days and new intake days! We would be writing to you to tell you something of our work throughout the year and to share the results of the Government's statutory tests. With no testing and limited time in school however, the emphasis of our governor letter is rather different.

The rapid spread of the outbreak of Coronavirus, which closed our schools on 20th March for all other than the children of our key-workers, posed an unenviable responsibility – and a unique challenge – on the shoulders of our Executive Headteacher. In anticipation of their return and in a limited period of time, Mr Raistrick ensured that all three school sites were prepared in line with Government guidelines and all risk assessments were prepared and approved. Home-schooling was planned, which included email contact between parents, children and teachers and where this was not possible, physically-distanced contact was arranged with these families. Free school meals continued to be provided and our most vulnerable children with special educational needs or disabilities received regular telephone calls to ensure their welfare.

1st June saw the return of more of our children, bringing our totals closer to 50% of those eligible and more of our teachers and teaching assistants willingly coming back to work. With each government review came new guidelines and the inevitable tweaking of the initial plans so as to accommodate children and staff safely. Throughout, the welfare and safety of everyone; staff and children, has been paramount and we recognise that a number of staff have had to work from home during this period. The work they have all undertaken to support the staff in school is acknowledged. In our weekly phone calls, we have noted how upbeat and positive school staff have always been regarding how well the plans have worked and how quickly the children have adapted to them. Our thanks go to all of the staff across the three schools that have rallied to make the 'new normal' work so well. It has been an impressive Federation team effort.

Governors extend their thanks to Andrew Raistrick for his dedication and commitment to our three schools and for the calm, pragmatic leadership he has demonstrated throughout this difficult time. We want to include a special thank you to Mrs Vayro and to Miss Beresford, the core team who were at the sharp end from the outset and who worked positively and tirelessly with him to ensure the successful implementation of his planning.

We have been told how supportive you, our parents, have been and we are grateful to you. Time will tell what awaits us next term. Meantime, I imagine there will be many of you looking forward to your break from home-schooling! Enjoy your holiday time.

On behalf of the governors,

Yours faithfully,

Helen Banks
Chair of Governors