

Shirley Infant School

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Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

Shirley Junior School



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Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of another academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to say some 'thank yous' on behalf of the Shirley Schools' Governing Body.

Little did we know back in September that we would need to recruit you onto our school team to help deliver our children's lessons over the last few months! We would like to thank all of you for the speed and enthusiasm with which you launched yourselves into this task.

Thank you also for your patience and understanding during what has been a very challenging few months for all of us. Schools have been at the forefront of the Government's COVID-19 response and we have had to adapt to changing Government requests and guidance, often at very short notice. I appreciate that this has been frustrating for you at times as you have been unable to plan ahead. I can assure you that we have done everything we can to keep you updated and provide you with timely information and we have really appreciated your understanding on this.

I'm sure you would like to join me in thanking our fantastic school leaders and their wonderful staff. They have shown incredible resilience, professionalism and courage to keep our schools open throughout the entire lockdown period, as well as supporting home learning for the children who were not in school. I would also like to take a moment to recognise the work of the Hamwic Education Trust, our parent Multi-Academy Trust. The strong leadership and support of Robert Farmer (Hamwic's Chief Executive Officer) and his team throughout this period have been invaluable.



My final end-of-year thank you goes to our children. This has been a very unsettling time for them and they have missed out on lots of activities and celebrations over the last few months. From the feedback I have received from the schools, the children have been amazing in the way they have reacted to the challenges of COVID-19 and we are very proud of them. Please can you congratulate them on our behalf.

The end of an academic year is also a time for goodbyes and we would like to wish the staff who are leaving us the very best of luck in their new roles. To the children who are leaving us this year, we would like to wish them every success in their future studies and hope that in years to come they will have happy memories of their time at the Shirley Schools.

Looking forward to September, I am pleased to say that the plans for reopening the schools to all pupils are already very well advanced, with detailed risk assessments being prepared to manage the issues associated with COVID-19. The schools have also been working hard to develop the 'recovery' curriculum that will be used next year to address the impact of the lockdown period on our children. This will focus on both the children's learning and their social and emotional development and we are excited by what the schools have planned for next year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a lovely summer break - you all deserve it! I hope you get the chance to enjoy yourselves (whilst complying with social distancing guidance of course!) Let's keep our fingers crossed that the return to some form of normality is not far away and we get to see each other around school soon.

Take care, stay safe and keep smiling :-)

Pete

Peter Gould

Chair of Governors, Shirley Infant and Shirley Junior School

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