



# St. Helen's Primary School & Cygnets Flying Start

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2020

This letter is available with subtitles at: <https://youtu.be/zlVR9stl8jM>

Dear parent/carers,

## Thank you

I wanted to place on record my thanks to you and your children for everything you have done this term. The return to school in September was worrying for many of you, including us as a staff. However, you placed your trust in us and I hope we have delivered on your expectations.

We have had changes to school drop off/pick up arrangements, Breakfast Club, school office arrangements, school dinners, children mixing in bubbles, cleaning routines, what we can teach/not teach, assemblies, after school clubs and the way we communicate with one another. The changes to schooling in such a short period have not been seen for many generations, if at all. However, in spite of all this you have supported us admirably and we couldn't be more grateful.

You have risen to the challenge of supporting the children's learning at home. I know this has been difficult and challenging, however the support we have received has been fantastic. You have balanced childcare when we have been closed and not one parent has complained to me



about this, knowing it has been out of our control. You truly have been extremely supportive and should reflect on the amazing job you have done.

We have not been able to do some of the things we would normally do during this term, but the school has remained a happy place and the work produced by your children has been first class, despite everything thrown at them. They have had to put up with so many limitations on what they can do, things that we all took for granted when we were children, such as seeing friends, family and playing in the local park. Despite all of this, they have been enthusiastic, happy and willing to do anything asked of them. I truly am in awe of them and truly wonder how I would have coped with this when I was in primary school. We have supported their physical and mental wellbeing to our utmost abilities and I'm sure they have enjoyed the normality of coming to school every day.

We have had a bumpy end to term, with positive cases linked to some year groups and our best wishes go to those affected. We are always here for any support or help you need. I hope you have enjoyed engaging with the home learning provided by teachers and the daily assemblies. I know this is certainly not the same as coming to school but it's the best we can do in these terrible times.

I'm sure the new year will bring even more challenges but as a community we can work together to ensure the impact on our wonderful children is minimised and that they are kept safe, happy and engaged in their schooling.

I'm sure you will join me in thanking the staff for the amazing job they have done this term. They truly have coped with all the obstacles placed in their way by the pandemic. They have worked tirelessly to ensure your children have been safe, well cared for and enjoyed school. They truly treat all children as if they were their own. They are here from early in the morning and return home late in the evening to their own families, often physically and mentally exhausted. Yet, they turn up day after day with a smile on their face, ensuring the children get the best possible education in a warm and caring environment. I am truly lucky to lead them and the community is blessed to have them.

I wish you a safe, peaceful and recharging festive period. I'm sure better days are ahead for all of us and look forward to the time when the school can return to normal. A time when children can learn, play and relax without limitation. I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Keep safe and kindest regards,

Mr. M.S. Thompson  
Headteacher

