



London Borough
of Barnet

Councillor Daniel Thomas
Leader of the Council

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure that you will join with me in sending our ongoing and heartfelt gratitude to all Barnet schools for their continued dedication and commitment during the COVID-19 crisis. I know that many of you will be showing your thanks to all the staff in many ways and that this is much appreciated by schools.

During this whole period, schools have tried so hard to stay open as much as possible and have attempted to keep 'business as usual' for all children and young people in their care. We know that continuing to provide education and a safe environment is vital for every child and young person and that all schools are fully supportive of this. It was so rewarding to see how happy all children and young people were to be back in school full-time at the start of the autumn term.

We know that it can be frustrating for all concerned when individuals, classes, bubbles or even whole schools, must close. Schools continue to review and update their rigorous risk assessments to ensure that children and staff continue to be safe in school. We know these are shared with you, usually via the school's website. The decision to close part of, or even a whole, school only happens because there is a health risk to all those concerned. We are grateful to you for your understanding. Schools are also working tirelessly to ensure that their online and 'blended' learning offer is as good as possible when children and young people need to learn remotely. Schools are grateful for any positive and constructive feedback they receive. They do review their practice as a result and put in place any improvements that are practical and possible to do.

In all aspects of education, schools will be striving to offer as much as they possibly can. However, we still need to remember that every school is different and that the

educational offer, both onsite and remotely, as well as each individual school's risk assessments, will vary from school to school.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continued support of Barnet schools and wish you and your families well during these extremely challenging times.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'T'.

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