



March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of all Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust Schools,

I am writing to you with a final update for the term from Oak Trees.

This has been a very challenging and difficult term for everyone across the Trust, including parents and carers. The vast majority of children have been at home for most of the spring term, and we know this has had a significant effect on family life for both you and your children. However, we have hopefully got through this difficult period, and it is fantastic to see how happy the children are to be back in school and see them quickly settle back in with their friends enjoying school life. We are so happy to see them all back, and schools now feel like schools again, which is the reason we all came into the profession in the first place! Your help and support throughout the pandemic has been invaluable, and we are very grateful to the vast majority of you who have been so understanding and supportive of our schools since last March. The feedback from you to our schools has been amazing, but likewise our feedback to you is that you have done an amazing job keeping things going. Thank you!

As you may have read in the press, the priority for our children post lockdown is to ensure that the lost learning for children from the last 12 months does not impact on their long term prospects. To this end, each school will be focusing in the next 12 months and beyond on ensuring that all children are able to make up for time missed in the class through focussed work in schools. In my opinion, we need to be very careful that this does not lead to children feeling like they are behind, like they need to 'catch up', as this may create low self-esteem and the feeling that all children and teachers are not performing as well as they should. We will do this work gradually and positively with a focus on positive mind-set, and I am certain that all of our children will flourish from the focused and supportive work being done across our schools.

Another impact of the pandemic has been a reduction in the amount of physical exercise and physical wellbeing during lockdowns. Out of school clubs and sports facilities have been significantly impacted, and a reduction in school PE in the winter has led to many children leading a less active lifestyle than before. This is also the case with most adults, and as a Trust we have decided to do everything we can to get the children back to being as active as possible. To this end, we are organising a month-long charity fundraising event called the May Mile, raising as much money as we can for local charities and also promoting positive physical health and wellbeing. I will be in touch with more details of how we want everyone to walk, run, swim and cycle as much as possible in May for charity. We are very excited about the event and are hopeful that it will bring a feeling of positivity for everyone at a time when it is needed so much.

The last 12 months has been very challenging for schools, and I am in no doubt that this will continue in the next year with the virus still around and still affecting schools on a daily basis. I can assure you that we are doing everything we can to plan for a brighter future for the Trust and for your child, and our exciting plans will not only make your child's experience at school more positive, but will also help to make all our families and staff proud to be a part of Oak Trees MAT.

Thank you for your continued support and have an enjoyable Easter break.

Tony Lacey CEO Oak Trees MAT

let's school

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Our schools

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Egremont Primary School
Stanton Road Primary School
Church Drive Primary School