

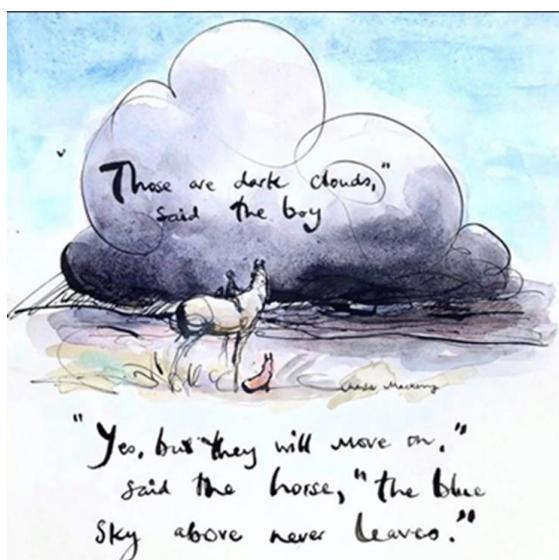
Newsletter No. 14 – 13 July 2020

Staying connected across NEAT.

Message from Debi Bailey, CEO

Dear Parents and Carers

As this is the last newsletter of the year, I just want to take this opportunity to say a final thank you to you all for the support and understanding you have shown over the last five months. We have all faced unprecedented challenges and I am so proud of the way the whole community has come together to overcome any obstacles that have come our way.



Many of you have taken the time to write messages of support and I cannot thank you enough for these; it has been such a huge morale boost to us all as leaders to know that you understand and support the decisions we have made as we have tried to grapple with changing advice and guidance.

By staying true to our commitment to support all of our families, and by being as creative as we can within the guidelines, by the end of this week almost every child across our trust will have had an opportunity to spend some time back in school. This has been a huge task for school leaders and I am so proud that they have been able to make this happen. I hope this has gone some way to ease concerns and hopefully you are all able to look forward to September with optimism.

During the summer, through our PE and School Sport Service, we are able to provide a virtual offer to all children and schools are putting together activities to support learning over the summer. Please make sure that you all join in as it promises to be great fun. We have also been able to provide an offer for a small group of children to help develop their confidence before the return to school in September- again, if you have been given an opportunity to take part, please do join in!

I know that even though things are slowly returning to 'normal' that many of you will have some anxieties and worries about September. Please be assured all of our schools have done an amazing job of making sure they are as safe as they can be but they are also still the happy, fun, vibrant places that they always have been and I know all of the children who have been back have loved spending time in school. If you

or your child is particularly worried about September, PLEASE speak to someone in school, as I promise you we can help, and make sure that you read through the information your school provides so you know what to expect in September.

I am also conscious that we expect that families who have been in receipt of Free School Meal vouchers will no longer receive these from September when all children will be back in school. Again, if you are worried about this PLEASE speak to someone in school.

I wanted to share a fantastic video with you that someone shared with me many years ago. It reminds us all of the importance of supporting and being there for each other. If you get a chance, please do take a look: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TBwdLG4ljc>

The film reminds us all of the need to “honk” every so often, just as geese do, to encourage each other to keep going so hopefully this acts as a little “honk” to you all - you are all amazing and I am so proud of how you have managed during the last few very difficult months.

The quote at the start of the newsletter reminds us that blue sky is there and hopefully you are beginning to see it. The poem below is on a similar theme: September provides us with a new beginning as we look to things returning to normal.

Here's to our new beginning and I can't wait to continue our journey together.

Take care.

