

Biddick Hall Junior School,  
Chesterton Road,  
South Shields,  
Tyne and Wear.  
NE34 9SP



Telephone: 0191-5362186

Fax: 0191-5191430

Email: [admin@biddickhallschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@biddickhallschool.co.uk)

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Head Teacher: Mrs. M. Collinson B.Ed (HONS).

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Dear parents, carers and any other member of the Biddick Hall Junior School community that may be reading this,

As we move into the second half of the summer term school life looks very different. Our school is usually buzzing with excitement, activities, sports, trips, anticipation of SATs results and visits to new schools. In reality we have little idea of how long this pandemic will last and what the changes will be to school life. I know that the school is giving you regular updates on the current situation but I just wanted to contact you on behalf of the Governing Body. I know that the past couple of weeks, in particular the publicity over the phased return to school, have been very unsettling and confusing.

In terms of our expectations for the school, there has been a change of emphasis, but not direction. Safeguarding remains our #1 priority. Our vision for the school remains unchanged, as does our expectation around financial control. We know that there will have to be changes in our short-term expectations on school performance, but nothing changes to our long-term aspiration to continue to deliver the best education to your children.

So what do I ask of you? Keep doing what you're doing! Keep your children healthy and safe and support home learning initiatives. The school will continue to provide as much educational support as possible. The Governors will provide the support to do what is necessary without compromising safety. I ask that you do what you can to support your children's learning as your own circumstances allow. If your children are at home encourage them to read every day, do activities on the school website, join google classroom, do activities in the packs sent home. Your children can still stay in touch with

their friends and teachers at this time, the technology can help us stay together.

But my biggest ask for you all is to have patience. We have no clear idea how or what the future brings. Whilst some of you will be happy, there will also be some who are nervous or anxious. We are as desperate to get back to normality as everyone, but it is more likely to be a journey than a specific date in the calendar.

Finally, I'd like to thank you. I hope we never go through anything like this again as long as we all live, but the support you have shown Mrs Collinson and the rest of the school community has been uplifting. Mrs Collinson and her staff are making extensive plans to deal with the phased re-opening of school, introducing measures to ensure the safety of everyone in the building. I have visited the school, and I am confident in reassuring you that everything possible has been done to make it a safe environment for your children.

I also want to say a big thank you to all the staff for working so hard in such difficult circumstances. I am always so impressed by their dedication and now more than ever.

Stay safe everyone

A. Hayward

(Chair of governors)