



Diverse
Academies



Samuel
Barlow
Primary Academy



Dear Samuel Barlow Primary Academy and Wainwright Primary Academy families,

I cannot believe that we have come to the end of another academic year. Another hard year, as was the previous year. Both years are linked in many ways: 2019/2020 from March to July both Academies were closed and had to find different ways to deliver the curriculum to our children; staff had to teach online and prepare weekly packs to send home for children not able to access online learning. Again, in 2020/2021, we have experienced a similar pattern and we, your governors, have been overwhelmed by the way staff, children and families have adapted to a different style of learning and a different way of working. We also acknowledge the extra time and hard work that all members of staff have given in such an unprecedented time.

The governors have adapted as well in the way we hold our Academy Committee meetings online, as well as link governor/staff meetings and I would like to thank staff for giving their time up to support us in this.

We are now moving forward and, as they say, there is light at the end of the tunnel. It is hoped that from September we are able to return to visiting the Academies, begin to see people face to face and return to a normal way of academy life and all that this brings.

Even though we have faced massive challenges in the way we have continued to work, we have achieved so much! Below are some bullet points of the success across both academies and supported by the Academy Committee and Senior Leadership Team.

- Impact project for future leaders.
- Schools working with external providers supporting children with further development (such as Forest Schools)
- Poverty Proofing work completed in both Academies
- National Online Safety Certificate attained in both Academies with support by governors in attaining the accreditation.
- Laptops have been received from a local community group to support remote online learning of pupils.
- Blended learning was successful.
- Risks continue to be monitored regularly by governors.
- Both Academies have been supporting Hillocks Primary Academy

As governors we are aware of the stress and anxiety that Covid has caused staff, children and families. The mental health and well-being of staff and children has been a concern and a priority for governors, in all our conversations with the Senior Leadership Team. This along with safeguarding has been at the forefront of our conversations.

The last 16 months has been hard with many unknowns, but together we have succeeded. I look forward to September, whatever challenge that brings and I know that with the dedicated staff we have, supported by the governors, we will beat whatever comes our way.

On behalf of the governors, I would like to wish you all a good summer break. We wish all children and their families who are moving on at the end of term, well, and look forward to welcoming everyone else back to the academies in September.

Kind Regards

Mr Pete Edwards

Vice Chair of Academy Committee governors