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Dear Parents and Carers

We are coming to the end of an unprecedented school year for our children which has seen many being supported in their education at home by you. We would like to thank you for all your work with your children and in the liaisons with the schools. This has ensured that all our children have had access to support from the schools and other services where needed.

We would also like to say thank you to the headteachers and all the staff in our schools who have worked tirelessly to support children whether in school or at home. Many have not had a break since this all started, working over the holidays and often weekends as well. We are sure you agree that they deserve a well-earned break over the summer. Having said that, they will be busily preparing for a return to school in September for all our children.

When schools reopen in September it will be for all pupils and we expect that they will all return. Please do not underestimate the importance of ensuring that all of our children return to full time education in September, the positive impact on their wellbeing, mental health and education is significant. We will be sending some more detailed information in the form of FAQ's which will help with some of your queries. We want the strong partnership between schools, the local authority and families to continue to ensure the very best outcomes for our children.

There may be some children and young people who are required to continue to shield in September 2020 and have received shielding letters; Our schools and local authority staff will help support those families, and schools will continue to provide remote learning for these children. This however will be the exception. Our staff are very aware of the needs of the children returning and will work very closely with the children to support them as they come back to a fulltime education. Staff have trained on health and well-being and this will be at the forefront of their interactions with children. If you do have concerns, then please do speak to the school.

Schools will continue to adhere to the government guidelines and for those of you who have not had children return to school, you will see great changes. Children will be kept in 'bubbles' and, generally speaking, will stay in one area of the school. Playtimes and lunchtimes will be different, as will the drop off and pick up at the end of the day. Some schools may have staggered times to start and finish.

Schools are unique and are very different from each other, for example factors such as the buildings and staffing impact on how they can respond to ensure the health and safety of the children and staff. All schools have undergone rigorous risk assessments which have been shared with Sefton Health and Safety and the trade unions. We would ask that you not compare school with school as they will all be responding in the most appropriate way to their circumstances.

We hope that you all manage a good summer with your families and look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Regards



VICKY BUCHANAN
Executive Director of Children's
Social Care and Education



TRICIA DAVIES
Interim Head of Education