

17th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have finally reached the last day of an academic year that will never be forgotten. I refer to this as the end of term but it is far from normal – many of our children have been unable to step into school since March.

I extend a wholehearted thank you to you for your patience and perseverance as we have grappled with government guidance and sought to navigate our way through a phase of partial reopening. Those children that have returned to school have done so with a positive attitude and an acceptance that day to day school life has changed. I thank you for your support in this regard.

However, there are many of you with children who had to remain at home and engage in remote learning. I know that this has been a strange experience but again you have supported our endeavours in the interests of maintaining each child's learning journey.

So, we bring 'Educare' and partial reopening to a close for the summer break but with the firm aim of full reopening for all children in September.

We expect all children to return at the start of the autumn term but I signpost here that, whilst all children will be in school, arrangements will be different and some of each school's established routines will have changed. Each school has planned adaptations so as to keep both children and staff safe whilst being able to ensure a breadth and depth of curriculum learning.

Each school leader will have set out specific arrangements so that you and your children are informed and know what to expect. Having said this, as all children return we will review our approaches, keep a vigilant eye on keeping safe and the spread of infection, and make ongoing changes as the need occurs.

I sign off here by again thanking you for your ongoing support and forbearance and thanking all WeST colleagues for rising to the unprecedented challenges faced with determination, understanding, care and professionalism.

I wish everyone a safe, restful, and peaceful summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Haring
CEO Westcountry Schools Trust