

Bowes Primary School



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Dear Parents,

Half way through week four of lockdown and as a parent myself I have felt the strain. So today I write to you as a mother first. Managing home schooling and work has been so tough, which is further compounded by the dark, cold and rainy/snowy weather. We need to ensure that we help each other during this time, as our mental health is getting hit hard.

But the main reason for writing to you all today is to say **well done!** You are surviving a pandemic and you are doing an amazing job whatever your personal circumstances. I have been inspired by another headteacher who has contacted their community, which has led me to write to you all today to share my personal thoughts.

We know that our children are supported, safe and cared for during this difficult time. The contact via our Google Meets and phone conversations has confirmed this. We know that we have high expectations and we have set a lot of work each week, but all we ask is that the children do their best and let us know if they need support. As a school we do not want to put any additional pressure on you when we know that many of our families are trying to work and keep our children safe, whilst home schooling at the same time. Everyone's circumstances are very different, and we appreciate that and show understanding.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to all the critical workers within our community, including our dedicated teachers and staff here at Bowes. Our staff have been working exceptionally hard in many different capacities to care for the children in school and also at home. Teachers have dedicated a lot of their time to recording engaging lessons for our children, which as I am sure you can imagine, is not the easiest of tasks! Many have in fact learned to become 'children's presenters' overnight, a challenging task to say the least. In turn, I would also like to say thank you to you for some of the amazing photos and feedback we have received. It really does mean a lot to us.

Finally, we may be 'closed' to a lot of pupils, but we are still here for all our families. If you need support in any way, please know that you can get in touch.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Effie Demetriou
Headteacher