



HOWITT

Primary Community School



Part of the Embark Multi Academy Trust

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Headteacher: Lynn Pilling

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Dear parents/carers,

As we're sure you are aware, our school is experiencing a situation that is very different to our normal routines due to the COVID-19. We know that our headteacher, Mrs Pilling, has been keeping you and your children up to date with the changes in the school's situation and its approach to learning. As governors, we wanted you to know that we are proud and confident of the way in which the school has responded to the difficulties presented by the lockdown. During this time we, as co-chairs, have been in regular contact with Mrs Pilling and with all of the Embark Trust schools and Trustees. One of the advantages of being part of the Embark Trust has been our school's direct involvement in formulating the Rising Strong Project which has focused on developing an effective strategy for pupils and staff to return to school. This project has been so successful that it has made the national press and has been shared with other academy trusts throughout the country.

In terms of our expectations for our school, there has been a change of emphasis, but not direction. Safeguarding remains our number one priority and we have updated our safeguarding policies to be in line with the Embark Trust's and local authority's recommendations. Most importantly we have also ensured that the updated policies are particular to the needs and situation in our school.

Our vision for the school remains unchanged, particularly in terms of ACE (Achieve, Care, Enjoy). There will inevitably be some catching-up to do, but we recognise that a different range of learning opportunities have been made available to our pupils either online or face-to-face during this year's Spring and Summer terms. We are very grateful for your support and flexibility in continuing to embrace these different opportunities.

We are eager to welcome the children back into school as soon as it is safe to do so and within the government guidelines. In the meantime, we wanted to thank you for your understanding and support for our school and its staff during this challenging time. Indeed, the support that many of you have shown to Mrs Pilling and staff has been heartwarming. We hope that this whole experience will have had some advantages in making us all stronger, more resilient and increasingly caring as a society. These are all traits that we would want to actively encourage in our children and our school community.

We look forward to seeing you soon. If anyone wishes to contact us, we can be contacted via the school office.

Jane Bowley & Carolyn Wood
Co-chairs of Governors

