

Philip Glanville
Mayor of Hackney
Cllr. Anntoinette Bramble
**Deputy Mayor and Cabinet member for Education,
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13 May 2021

Dear Headteacher/Principal,

Thank you

We are writing this letter to thank you again for your hardwork and commitment to children in Hackney. The pandemic brought with it uncertain times, and yet the response from leadership teams, teachers, educational and support staff has been amazing. The past year has been a testament to your dedication and resilience. Your ability to adapt has been an inspiration to us all.

We also acknowledge the difficulties you have faced, as frontline staff, to ensure minimal disruption to children's education, all whilst looking after your own mental and physical health and your school's resilience. For our students, the changing nature of education, lockdown and the impact on their health cannot be underestimated.

As we acknowledge Mental Health Awareness Week, as you know emphasis is being and continues to need to be placed on including the mental and emotional wellbeing of children, young people and school staff. The theme this year is nature and conveniently ties in with next week's Walk to School Week. There are a range of activity resources available online and we encourage you to further promote and where not already present, build some of the activities into your school's curriculum over the coming weeks. We know your WAMHS contact will have been working with you in this area.

- Mental Health Awareness Week: 10 - 16 May 2021
<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week>
- Thrive <https://www.thriveapproach.com/>



- Walk to School Week: 17 - 21 May 2021
<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/products-and-services/projects/walk-to-school-week>

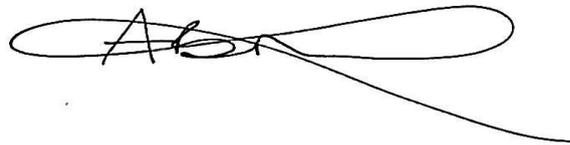
As some form of normality extends after half term, we would welcome the opportunity to visit your school to speak with you, your staff and pupils about the past year and the future. We have managed to visit some schools during recent months and have seen others via virtual meetings, but that is no substitute for a dedicated visit. We would also welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have going forward to see how we can best support you and your school community.

If you are happy for this visit (either physically or virtually) to happen, please do respond to this letter via email, and Adjeley Kwei (adjeley.kwei@hackney.gov.uk) will be back in touch to arrange a suitable date.

Yours sincerely



Philip Glanville
Mayor of Hackney



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PS: We are looking forward to joining some of you for Walk to School week, next week - if you have any dedicated plans or want to comment further on our School Streets programme, please do come back to us.

