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Colleagues

As we come to the end of the school year, we would like to take the opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to schools and school staff right across Birmingham for your outstanding work throughout an incredibly difficult period.

Birmingham is extremely lucky to have dedicated schools staff who go the extra mile for our young people at the best of times, but your efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic have been little short of extraordinary.

The work of everyone - from early years settings right the way through to post-16 providers and of course SEND colleagues - has made a real difference to young people and families at a challenging time. This continues to be a tough period for all of us and of course schools staff are not immune from the worries and stresses associated with the pandemic. However, you have still continued to support your pupils and the communities you serve and we know that your efforts have been appreciated throughout the city.

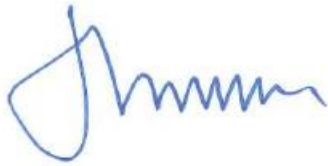
As we all know, the pandemic is far from over and schools will continue to face challenges when all pupils return in September. We know you will have to work incredibly hard and use innovative processes so that children can return safely.

For now though, it's time for a well-earned break as you recharge batteries after the most challenging school year in living memory.

So, please pass this message of gratitude on to every single member of your teams. Thank you for everything that you have done this year. As we said back in April, we're proud to stand alongside you at such a critical time.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Ian Ward
Leader of Birmingham City Council



Councillor Jayne Francis
Cabinet Member for Education, Skills & Culture



Councillor Kate Booth
Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing