

8 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the October break, I write to thank you for your ongoing support, patience and understanding extended to our schools, staff and learning communities. I am immensely proud of how well our children and young people have coped with the return to schools in August. They have embraced learning, strengthened relationships and shown remarkable resilience and acceptance of the changes and adaptations our schools have put in place to ensure the health and safety of all.

As we waited in July for the First Minister's announcement on the return of schools, many staff in nurseries and schools were already busy planning, resourcing and adapting to ensure a safe reopening and warm welcome was there for all. The dedication and selflessness of our school staff and other education colleagues has been invaluable, and I am sure you will join me in thanking everyone for keeping our children and young people's best interests at the heart of all we do. It has been a time of great change, uncertainty and anxiety for many. However, our strength lies in our compassionate relationships and partnerships. Sharing the same priorities across our education settings has ensured equity for all our learners, and regular communication between staff, parents and carers has brought communities closer together at the most challenging time.

As we look to the break, I urge you all to rest, recuperate and take time with friends and family, in the safest manner possible. With the changing of the season comes a fresh opportunity to reflect on our experiences, embrace the advances we have made over the past eight months, and to consider the next steps on our recovery journey. There will be more challenges to overcome, but I am confident that all the great work that has been done so far will help education in Highland to continue to thrive and the Highland Council will continue to work with the Highland Parent Council Partnership to ensure the views of all parent councils in Highland are heard.

I look forward to welcoming staff, children and young people back to our educational settings after the holiday break, and wish to take one final opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your valued contributions to our recovery and progress.

Yours faithfully



Nicky Grant
Executive Chief Officer



Jason Hasson
Chair, HPCP