

Positive Feedback

Comments from the lockdown period

“May I take this opportunity to thank you and all the staff at Ditchling Primary for all the measures you have put in place for our children to see us through these troubling times. I am sure I speak for many by saying how appreciated it is.”

- “Thank you for all of the information and for all of the care and hard work you and your whole team have dedicated to all of the children not just this week but every week.”
- “Can I just say the way the school has handled this unprecedented situation has been first class - keeping us updated and providing worksheets and information. Many thanks”



“Thank you for all your organisation and hard work- especially getting the Microsoft teams up and running!”



- “I cycled to school this morning and thought how grateful we are for all your hard work in this difficult time. Thank you to you and your staff team for your support. As a mental health nurse I appreciate being able to continue offering care to my vulnerable clients. With your staff team's support it really does feel like we are working together to look after each other. We appreciate your dedication to keeping our children safe while they are in school.”
- “Thank you for these emails and to your fantastic staff. These are desperate times but you clearly have a good, strong leadership and wonderful team. Please do pass on my gratitude to all involved.”

“Thank you for your ongoing professionalism, support and commitment during these difficult times. I know that as a household, juggling work commitments between being a key worker, work commitments at home, alongside caring for and educating our children is a challenge. I’m really very grateful to the school staff for the huge roles you’re playing at this time.”

“I just wanted to say a big thank you for establishing the virtual learning sessions. X is really benefiting from the window back into his normal school life. Thank you to everyone at school for your ongoing commitment and professionalism.”



“Please pass on our thanks to the whole school team. You’ve all been great dealing with the unstable unfolding situation.”



- “I just wanted to let you know how much both X and X are enjoying the on line classes. I was rather sceptical about these to start with but they have proved to be a huge success. Please pass on my thanks to both Miss Dyer and Mr Lambert for making the lessons so much fun and a much needed change from my teaching attempts!
- “Thank you to yourself and all the staff for providing a great mix of activities for the children and helping to make this strange situation more bearable.”
- “Thank you for the update and a massive thank you to all the staff for all their hard work and perseverance. I can only begin to imagine how challenging it must be right now but we feel really supported at home and are looking forward to getting back to school when you are able to have us.”

“Thank you for your email and thank you to all the staff in school that are managing communications, holding on-line lessons, making calls to home to check in with our amazing children. and everything else they are doing. It has been amazing and so very much appreciated.”



- “I just wanted you to know how brilliant Miss Dyer is. She always gives really detailed feedback on any work I send her. It really encourages him and he loves to hear her comments. She was really in control on the online meeting today and as enthusiastic as ever. Her lesson plans for the week are very easy to follow and makes it very easy for us as parents.”
- “I appreciate you are working your way through this changing landscape and that it's fantastic to hear how you and your staff are being so flexible and responsive. I have to feedback that the every-other-day contact with teachers and classmates is really really fantastic and beneficial. X enjoys this small slice of reality and contentedness with his former 'life' and friends so thank you for continuing to pursue that.”

“Thank you for all the amazing work you are doing to open the school again. I can’t imagine how difficult this must be but I think it is fantastic. What a great team of people you have there. Thank you x 10!”



- “As I fed back at the governors meeting, the amount of work you and your team have done over the past weeks has been outstanding and so incredibly valuable, but I suspect there is still a lot more to do! Best wishes and thanks once again, Vicky Harries (Governor)”
- “Just wanted to say how nice it was to "see" you and hear how thoughtfully you are managing a very challenging time for the school. I was particularly heartened to hear your sensitivity and empathy when thinking about teachers wearing masks and how that may feel to the children - what a positive impact your consideration for them will have on their wellbeing. Best wishes, Jennie (Governor)”

“I would like to write to you personally to say a huge Well done to you and your team for facilitating such a calm and organised return to Nursery for my daughter this morning. I would particularly like to thank Ms Angee and her team for offering such a lovely warm and reassuring welcome to each of the children as they arrived back. The bubbles were a fun way to break the ice and I really don't think my daughter would have got through the gate had it not been for the solid reassurance she got from the staff. Really well done to you and the nursery team,”

“X and I just wanted to say how much we've appreciated all the efforts made by you and your staff at the school during these strange times.

Both X and X have loved being back in reception and nursery these past couple of weeks. I was worried it could have been a difficult transition back and have been upsetting for them - but it was quite the opposite. It's so nice to hear them chatting about what they've done with their friends during the day. Thank you for keeping the focus on play and socialising, it's just what they needed.”

“I just wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks for everything you and your team have done over the past few months and especially in the past few weeks. You have all done a wonderful job to get school open and ensure it doesn't feel too un-normal.

X is very happy to be back and all the children seem so happy. It almost brings a tear to my eye.”



“I am bowled over by how much hard work and effort Mrs Thompson and St Margaret's school have put into the children and their schooling during this difficult time. Not only have the home learning packs and teacher support been fantastic, but I can clearly see the huge effort and work that has gone into allowing the children to return to school safely and happily.

It has made an immense difference to our family's happiness and wellbeing during this time, we all feel part of something supportive and caring and the children feel very well looked after.

St Margaret's have also organised for all children to return to school for a few days to connect with their friends and teachers. The fact that Mrs Thompson understands how important this is to them (even though it is a minefield to organise,) demonstrates how she's always able to go above and beyond for the welfare of her pupils. We are extremely lucky and grateful.”

“Thank you Mrs Thompson for all of your very hard work and that of your staff.

... You are all doing such a fantastic job at such a challenging time. Thank you.”

“Thank you for being so amazing during this very strange times and also to Mrs Thompson and all the staff for getting so much done.

It can’t be underestimated just how much organisation it must have taken to get the children back and we are ever so grateful! To keep online lessons going too has been a godsend....

Thanks to everyone at the school, I really don’t know any other schools who have gone to so much effort.“



“I just wanted to say a huge thank you to both of you for being so brilliant and encouraging throughout lockdown. X and I both feel incredibly grateful that she's had so much support and interaction during this very strange time.

Amazingly, X has managed to maintain her motivation for school work throughout lockdown and I know she wouldn't have been able to do it without your support. She's especially looked forward to all her sessions on Teams - and is incredibly enthusiastic about completing and sharing her work with you and the others in her group. She's also been really motivated by all the amazingly thoughtful and detailed feedback you've both given.

Having chatted to friends living elsewhere, I realise that what you've delivered during this time goes above and beyond what other schools have managed - we feel so lucky that we moved here!“

“We are extremely impressed by the way the school has responded to the challenges created by the pandemic. Our children have been offered extensive documentation to support their learning, they were quickly offered online sessions with their teachers in small groups and all this has been accomplished with a friendly non-pressured attitude. I imagine the teachers must be working harder than usual to assist the children in this way as they are also caring for groups key workers’ children in school.

The leadership from the headteacher Mrs Thompson has been outstanding. When the government indicated that three year groups should return to school on 1 June, the school was ready, with detailed plans on how to manage this in the school setting. We have received consistent and clear information from the school about what was being done to respond to the developing situation and the children have also been kept in the loop about what was happening in school. Keeping them linked to school life and to each other in this way has been very positive for their mental wellbeing.

At a time when leadership at the higher levels of this country seem to be completely absent, it is refreshing to feel that our local school has a solid plan, structure and vision.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone at Ditchling St Margaret’s, as we are sure that this has been a team effort, for working so hard for our children. It has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated.”

“I am incredibly grateful for all your efforts in getting the children back to school, you have clearly worked tirelessly and determinedly and moved mountains!”