

The Forest School
Park Lane
Knaresborough
HG5 0DQ

10 September 2021

Dear Parent,

Welcome back to the new school year. I wanted to write at the outset of the year ahead to set out our principles and priorities and to describe some of the recent background work that we have been doing in school and throughout the Trust.

The Wellspring Academy Trust is a charity that manages a community of twenty-nine schools that includes The Forest School. We are acutely conscious of the challenges that the COVID-19 period has presented for everyone. Throughout it we have aimed to support our schools and, in so doing, the communities they serve. We are entering yet another uncertain phase of the pandemic and will endeavour to do everything possible to maintain continuity and safety. We have benefitted enormously from your support and may continue to require it in the weeks and months to come. School leaders will keep you as fully informed of developments as is absolutely possible. Our aim together is to achieve and maintain learning continuity.

To this end, the Trust has invested some £4.5m in its buildings and grounds this summer. The Forest School itself has benefitted from a £70,000 investment in classroom refurbishment, staff room upgrade and food technology room upgrade. This very substantial investment gives a clear indication to you of our commitment to continually improving the quality of facilities available to your child in school and to keeping our buildings safe, warm, welcoming, water-tight and fit for their purpose. A dedicated Trust team of expert professionals has led this crucial work. It is one of the many benefits the school gains from working together in partnership with a community of others in trust.

As you will all be aware, Michelle Farr will be leaving her role as head teacher at the end of this term. We wish her every success in the next phase of her career. I would like to reassure you that the trust and the governing body have begun a national recruitment process to find an Executive Principal who will continue the great work of Mrs Farr and also oversee the development of our new special school in Selby. We are fully committed to finding and recruiting the right person for your school and the community it serves.

I sincerely hope that this year is a far more settled and predictable one than we have become used to in recent times. Your school, supported by the Trust, is doing everything that it can to ensure continuous, safe and high-quality provision every day. Some matters are inevitably outside of their – and the Trust’s – control. We will always aim to mitigate the impact, whatever the circumstances. Please continue to support your school and community in every way that you can.

With every good wish,



Mark Wilson
Chief Executive Officer, Wellspring Academy Trust