

Wellfield Community School
North Road East
Wingate
TS28 5AX

Tuesday 9 March 2021

Dear *Linda*

I, and my colleagues at the Trust, wanted to say a heartfelt thank you to you, and all your colleagues for the support you have provided to children and families across a number of national lockdowns and local restrictions, and the most challenging of years.

We provide school nursing and health visitor services across County Durham, a really important service working out in local communities and in schools.

I know just how much of a challenge it has been for schools to remain open for children of key workers. Despite the hurdles to overcome, you've continued to provide an education and support of many kinds for your pupils. This has ensured that key workers have been able to come to work, be that in the NHS or elsewhere.

I couldn't let this opportunity pass, as schools start to fully reopen, without expressing my gratitude and the gratitude of all of my colleagues.

Clearly, it's been a really challenging, unprecedented time for the NHS. However, the support, dedication and professionalism of teachers across the country has made such a difference to us, helping us continue to provide care for our patients and service users.

Thank you once again for all that you and your colleagues have done for children and families over the past year. I hope that you're able to share this letter and with it our gratitude with your team.

While restrictions have assisted with reducing the transmission of Covid-19 we appreciate that such measures have downsides for children and families. Although the number of patients in hospital is reducing, we may well see the support needed by children and families rise. We will do our very best to work with you and to support children in your school.

Hope is important, and in the wise words of Captain Sir Tom Moore, "tomorrow will be a good day". As we move into spring, and more and more people are being vaccinated, I very much hope that the days will become better and better for you, your colleagues and the children and families we're here to support.

Once again, a huge thank you from all of us at #teamHDFT.



Steve Russell
Chief Executive, Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust

