

Telephone: 0114 273 5380 – Councillor Support Team (Office Hours)

Email: Dawn.Dale@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk

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Letter sent via email address to: all Sheffield schools

Councillor for Shiregreen and Brightside Ward

Town Hall, Sheffield, S1 2HH

Dear parents, carers, teachers and everyone in our school communities,

As we reach the end of the school year, I wanted to send a heartfelt thank you. To our teachers, school leaders and all school staff, thank you for everything you have given to children and young people this year. The care, patience, humour and commitment that go into school life every day really do matter.

To parents and carers, thank you too. I know the school year can be busy, joyful, tiring and sometimes a bit of everything all at once. Your support at home, your encouragement, and the way you work with schools makes such a difference.

I hope the summer gives children, young people and families a chance to breathe out a little, spend time together and enjoy our brilliant city. Sheffield has so much going on over the holidays — parks, woods, museums, libraries, sports, music, festivals, local events and plenty of free or low-cost things to do. Whether it is a walk in one of our green spaces, a trip into town, Sheffield by the Seaside, a visit to a museum or simply time with friends and family, I hope everyone gets chance to enjoy some of what Sheffield has to offer.

For families who are eligible, Sheffield Healthy Holidays is running again through the Holiday Activities and Food programme. It offers free holiday club sessions for school-aged children who receive benefits-related free school meals, with activities such as sport, arts and crafts, swimming, baking, music and more, as well as food included. You can find out more and book activities here: <https://sheffieldhealthyholidays.org>

A gentle reminder too about staying safe while enjoying the summer. If children and young people are out near rivers, reservoirs, canals or other open water, please remind them to take care and not to go into unsupervised open water. It can be much colder and more dangerous than it looks, even on a warm day. Local water safety advice is available here: <https://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org/p/topics/water-safety>

The holidays can also mean more time online. Rather than making it a battle, it can help to keep talking with children and young people about what they are doing, who they are speaking to, and what they can do if something does not feel right. Helpful online safety information for families and schools is available here: <https://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org/p/topics/online-safety>

And while screens are part of life for all of us, I hope the summer also brings lots of chances to put them down for a bit to get outside, be active, read, play, chat, laugh, see friends and enjoy time together. Those simple moments can be the ones children remember most.

If the sun does come out and we will keep our fingers crossed, please remember the basics too: sunscreen, hats where possible, plenty of water and breaks from the sun during the hottest parts of the day.

Thank you again for all you have done this year for Sheffield's children and young people. I hope you have a lovely, safe and enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dale', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Councillor Dawn Dale
Chair Education, Children and Families Policy Committee
Councillor Shiregreen and Brightside (Labour and Co-operative)
Phone: 0114 273 5380 (Town Hall)
Email: dawn.dale@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk

Every child should belong in a loving family, a good quality home, in their local school where they feel they belong and thrive and attain, in their local community where they are valued and respected and a member of the City of Sheffield where their voice is heard and they can see the impact of their voice on decisions.