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Colleagues

As we come to the end of what has been an incredibly challenging year for the city and an autumn term like no other for Birmingham's schools, we would like to take the opportunity to once more say a huge thank you to everyone working in schools and education settings for your tireless commitment and dedication.

It's impossible to overstate the pressures that schools have faced over the past few months. Term began after a summer spent planning for the return of pupils, undertaking risk assessments, dealing with exam uncertainty and being unable to take a proper break after the challenges of the first lockdown.

Faced with such challenges, the way that you have kept disruption to education to a minimum since September has been nothing short of extraordinary. During an unprecedented and stressful time, your schools and settings have provided much needed and appreciated continuity for children, young people and their families.

We know that working under extreme pressure for such a long time has been tough and hope that you will all be able to enjoy some much-needed rest and relaxation over the festive period.

The spring term will continue to be challenging, but with the roll-out of vaccination and increased testing, our hope is that life in schools, as elsewhere, will gradually return to normal in 2021.

Please pass on our thanks to everyone at your schools and settings.

You should all be extremely proud of the huge contribution you have made to Birmingham this year.

Put simply, you have been amazing.

With very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy and happy New Year.

Warm Regards

Councillor Ian Ward
Leader of Birmingham City Council

Councillor Jayne Francis
Cabinet Member for Education, Skills & Culture

Councillor Kate Booth
Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing