

Hello everyone, I felt it important to drop a quick message to you all just to celebrate how fantastically well we're performing as a Food business at the moment.

It's really clear everybody's working incredibly hard, and we're getting great success as a result. The sun is shining, our like for likes have been incredibly strong, we're beating the market and there's lots and lots to feel good about.

We've got new stores joining our portfolio, we've got 36 that've opened and we've refitted 47 stores so far this year, with plenty more to come. Teams in those stores are doing a brilliant job, they're exceeding our store targets that we'd set and we're really thrilled with how the customers are responding as well.

It's really clear that with the great weather we're getting lots of new customers, and great weather brings an opportunity for us to really show ourselves at our best. I know store colleagues are working incredibly hard to keep the shelves fully stocked, our Logistics teams are absolutely working flat out, we have never delivered as much product through our network as we're doing at the moment. I think in the last seven weeks we've done over 11 million cases a week, we've never done that one week after another, so the teams are doing a brilliant job. And the Supply Chain teams and Commercial teams are really powering that as well, so a big thank you to everybody working in those spaces.

Summer product ranges are landing well with customers, I hope many of you have had the chance to try some of the innovation. I have to say the unicorn rainbow cones I was starting to think were like unicorns, because I know I've struggled to get hold of them, they've been a fantastic success and my kids love them and customers love them as well. So something for us to keep getting behind and growing in terms of innovation and something that resonates with customers. But all of our summer ranges are doing brilliantly well and a big thank you to the Delicious Food team and the Commercial teams for bringing those to life.

We've also had a great success with our first festival store at Download. Going there on the day to have a look around was just incredible to see how our colleagues were really pulling together. So Supply Chain teams in the back on their laptops busily ordering and getting product in, Logistics teams working really hard to prioritise what is an important new trial for us, and the colleagues in the store just phenomenal hard work going on to get the shelves restocked as we were just overwhelmed with the amount of demand that we had from festival-goers who really couldn't believe that we were there and were just so thrilled to see the Co-op as part of the festival. So a really fun way of getting the Co-op out into spaces we normally wouldn't be in and attract new customers at the same time.

Project teams are working incredibly hard too. Huge amount of change going on across the business, I'm very conscious that the teams that are working on our GSCOP project and our great supplier relationships project, and on our Retail Business Transformation project, there's been a lot of evening and weekend work as they're looking to hit deadlines that are really important to us and that get us into great shape for the future. So a big thank you to all of those teams and anybody who's putting in extra hours to really get us into the best shape as a business.

We're so proud of you. I'm really proud of you. and I'm really grateful for all the hard work going on right the way across the Food business, we're having an amazing year, we've got great momentum and I know we're going to have a fantastic year full stop. So thank you very much to you all.