

4th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move into another National Lockdown I just wanted to reassure you that as a Trust we will be continuing to work with our schools to do everything we can to ensure there is as little disruption to our children as possible. Sadly, as with a number of schools, we have had incidents of the virus causing bubbles of children to have to self-isolate and one of our schools has had to have an extended half term due to the impact of the virus.

Your Head Teacher will provide you with more specific information regarding your own school so please can I encourage you to keep checking school communications and any social media updates to keep you up to date.

The announcement of a second lockdown clearly shows again the need for all of us to adhere to the guidance from the government. I would like to pay tribute to our school leaders, teachers and all support staff who have worked so hard to keep our schools open and ensure our children still have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. However, I also think it is important for everyone to play their part.

Please make sure that if you, or anyone else in your household, has symptoms you isolate along with your entire household and book a test for anyone with symptoms. If it is positive please make sure you inform school immediately so we can work with Public Health to determine who we need to contact regarding further isolation. Please also remember that we must not mix households and we must stick to the 2m guidance in line with the updated guidance and legislation. Whilst we are now back with Save Lives, Stay at home and protect the NHS; we are still reminding children about Hands, Face, Space!

I know 'pick ups' and 'drop offs' are a challenge and there will be a temptation to ask others who may not be in your bubble to help out. As a Trust we cannot police this but we are highly dependent upon your support to help protect our school staff and other children in school. We have a number of staff and children who have undergone risk assessments in order to come to work or school – none of these are in the public domain but the choices we make can have a greater unknown impact on others so please help us to help them.

Finally I would just like to thank you all again for your support. We continue to be on a learning curve and are trying our very best to continue to comply with the changing laws and guidance whilst also ensuring your children feel happy and safe in school. As a Trust we are constantly evaluating and reevaluating what we do and our priority remains the wellbeing and education of your children whilst supporting our hard working and dedicated staff. The pandemic has affected all of us in so many different ways; I hope that during this period of new lockdown you and your loved ones remain safe and well.

Best wishes,



Paul Rickeard
Chief Executive Officer
Durham Diocesan MAT