

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers & Infinity Families,

I write to you following the announcement by the Prime Minister last night that all schools must close to the majority of pupils as part of a National Lockdown. As a nation we have seen coronavirus numbers steadily increasing and again we are at dangerously high levels that have the potential to overwhelm the NHS. Therefore, once again I have to ask for your patience and understanding at this very challenging time.

Our schools will still be here to serve you and your children, although for the foreseeable future it will look and feel very different. The vast majority of pupils will move to online and remote learning from tomorrow (Wednesday 6th January) and this is available to you through your school's website. In the past months, we have surveyed our parents to try and understand how best we can provide remote learning that works for you and your child. It is hugely challenging as every household has a different number of devices, variable internet connections or no internet, as well as differing numbers of people who need to be online in the home. We have tried to offer a balanced approach that gives you some flexibility. We have chosen not to provide "live" lessons so that you can access the learning at the time that best suits you and your child. We have tried to strike a balance in the types of activities we offer in order to limit the requirement to have to print resources where we can and we are providing paper-based materials if/ when required. However, it is really important that if you are having difficulty with remote learning that you speak with your child's teacher. There is an expectation on schools to monitor the work completed and to work closely with you to ensure children are accessing their learning as best they possibly can whilst at home.

Our school buildings will continue to be open for the children of Key Workers and those identified as Vulnerable according to the Department for Education criteria. We ask that you only use this provision if absolutely necessary so we can keep the numbers on site as low as possible. All the children will be completing the same tasks and remote learning regardless of whether they are at school or at home in order that the year group/ class continue to cover the same content and areas of the curriculum. We will ensure that all children receive regular contact from the class teacher/ teaching assistant and your school will explain more about how and when this will happen. We encourage you to use the "contact the teacher" section on your child's class web page, submit work where you can via the remote learning email addresses and encourage your child to chat with the adult from school when they call. We really do want to help.

For those of you that access Free School Meals we will be in touch to discuss how we will manage this process during the lockdown and ensure that you receive your entitlement. We

are awaiting further information on this from the Department for Education but it is likely that it will take the form of Food Parcels for collection.

Currently, we anticipate that the lockdown will last until at least February half term. Therefore, we suggest that you look to establish a structure for your home learning each day that is manageable for you and your child. Have a look over the work set for the week, break it up into manageable chunks with rest breaks and create a timetable for you and your child. The most important thing to us is that your child is happy and well supported so please make sure you plan in fun activities and down-time as well. We recognise that many of you are not teachers and will be juggling your own work as well, so again, if there is anything more we can do to help then please do get in touch.

Please do not put undue pressure on yourself or your child. All any of us can do at this time, is our best.

I want to “thank you” for your fantastic support of our schools and their teams during the course of this pandemic. We are so grateful for your kind words of encouragement and for your continued understanding. I am so proud of how the staff across our schools have pulled together to support each other and our pupils and I have no doubt that our school communities will continue to thrive even in these challenging times.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Booth', with a stylized, cursive script.

Gavin Booth
Chief Executive Officer