

PACT Head Office
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3rd November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

On behalf of the Trust may we take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of PACT academies. Back in August we prepared for the start of the academic year. We took a measured approach and carefully assessed how we would work on a day-to-day basis. Our Headteachers and staff worked hard to put controls in place to mitigate against the risk of COVID -19. Our three schools fully re-opened in September and we welcomed all children back to their new classes.

Over the last half term our children have returned to their learning following a carefully constructed curriculum. This focussed on early reading, writing and maths. Our wider curriculum also included elements of mental health and well-being. We also completed several assessments to highlight any gaps in learning. Using this information, further plans have been put in place to address any specific needs. The government's catch up funding has been used to support these actions.

Attendance has been good in all three schools. Despite our best efforts, we cannot guarantee 100% that our sites are free from the coronavirus but by working together we can help minimise risk. Over the last half-term some of our staff were advised to stay at home and self-isolate due to coming into contact with people who had tested positive to COVID-19. Where this was the case we adjusted staffing arrangements to keep classes open. The number of staff self-isolating is increasing due to the spread of the virus and there is a limit to the cover available without breaching the integrity of other class bubbles. If cover cannot be found then we will be left with no alternative but to temporarily close a bubble. This communication may come at short notice due to the timing of contact by track and trace. Please accept our apologies if it is necessary to take such action.

Over the last couple of weeks we have seen Barnsley and South Yorkshire placed in to Tier 3 restrictions. From Thursday 5th November, along with the rest of the country we will go into lockdown. We are therefore constantly working closely with our Health and Safety consultants to look at how we can respond to any new government guidance. We will keep you informed of any changes in practice as and when we receive any updates. One such request received from Barnsley Council is that all parents/carers must wear a face mask whilst on school sites. We are sure you will make every attempt to adhere to this. We all have a role to play in keeping our school and community safe.

We continue to ask that you **do not send your child to school if:**

- they do not feel well.
- they have symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) or have tested positive.
- you or someone in your household or support bubble has symptoms or has tested positive.
- you have been given advice from track and trace.

Please note that we are awaiting specific guidance re clinically extremely vulnerable children attending school particularly during this forthcoming lockdown period. We ask all parents whose child has a significant health need to seek medical advice from health professionals as to whether these vulnerable children can attend school.

As we approach Christmas, we will continue to provide the best possible education for your child whilst responding to the ever changing local and National guidance. If you require any specific information regarding school operational systems, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Headteacher.

Yours sincerely

Harry Wood
CEO

Pete Steadman
Chair of Trustees