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Dear Parents/Carers

On behalf of the Trust may I say thank you for your continued support following our full re-opening at the start of this term. Feedback from our Academy Headteachers is that everyone is following the site specific procedures to ensure we adhere to our risk assessment guidance. Please continue to social distance and follow the rules whilst on our school sites.

You will have seen in the news that several schools have had to close bubbles because either staff or children have tested positive. Despite putting in the control measures as listed in the government's guidance this is inevitable. We have always stated that we cannot ensure our school sites are 100 per cent risk free of the COVID-19 virus. We all must continue to play our part in helping reduce the spread of this virus.

We ask that you continue to support us in some of the decisions our Academy Headteachers are having to make. These being:

**1. Sending children home if they are exhibiting one or more of the coronavirus symptoms**

We are aware that some children are suffering from seasonal colds and hay fever but we are not health professionals and therefore we must follow the guidance and advise to have them tested. We wouldn't want to accept a child in class who has not been tested and may be positive. This would be unfair on other children and adults in that bubble.

**2. Following self-isolation guidance whilst waiting for test results**

You must follow the guidance re self-isolation to avoid the rapid spread of the virus. We appreciate that people are finding it difficult to access a test and also that results are taking up to 72hrs to be returned but we cannot accept children back unless they have received a negative result.

**3. Following the guidance if you are contacted by track and trace or you have a confirmed case of someone in your household**

Guidance on this keeps changing – the most up to date information can be found at [symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). Alternatively, you can contact the coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline on 0800 046 8687.

**4. Closing a bubble due to a positive test result**

Please note that we will follow the guidance issued by the Public Health team with regards to any bubbles closing and children being advised to stay at home. All necessary information will be conveyed to parents and carers. Please note that any request may be made at short notice.

**5. Closing a bubble due to staff shortages**

We may have staff who have to isolate because a member of their household, or they themselves, have been advised they require a test. Whilst waiting for results they have to stay at home. Wherever possible we will cover the class with another member of staff. However, to maintain the integrity of other bubbles we cannot move staff around to cover staff absenteeism. We can only use staff who normally work with that group of children. This is one reason why we grouped staff into larger pod groups. As a last resort we will shut a bubble if we do not have adequate staff available.

We will continue to do our best to support all families and communities in our Trust. We want everyone to have an opportunity to return to some kind of normality whether that be at home or in the workplace. Please take care, stay safe and help us all to deal with the ongoing difficulties this virus is causing.

Yours sincerely

Harry Wood  
CEO

Pete Steadman  
Chair of Trustees