

4 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Update from Trust in Learning (Academies)

I hope that you and your loved ones are continuing to keep safe and well. I am writing to update you about the situation in all the Trust in Learning schools.

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful way in which you have supported your child and our school staff, not only from the start of this academic year but also from the very start of the first national lockdown in March. Without you working in partnership with our school staff, we would not have been able to get all of our children back into school so successfully since the start of September. Attendance for Term 1 across all of our schools has been above 93%, which is above the current national average of around 90%. That is a measure of how well our risk assessments have been planned and executed as well as how highly you have valued getting your child back into full time education.

I would like to acknowledge and say thank you for your support during this most difficult of times because that has allowed us to get our schools back to their core purpose of teaching and learning far faster than many schools nationally.

Our intention at the start of Term 2 is to continue to focus upon quality teaching and learning. However, this week's announcement by the Prime Minister of a second national lockdown from 5th November has put back into focus the need for all of us to remain vigilant about Covid-19 at all times. The major difference in this lockdown is that schools are not being instructed to close for most children, as they were on 20th March. Instead, we have been instructed to remain open and to continue to provide full-time education for all. Therefore, we will continue to do just that.

I have asked all the Headteachers to ensure that risk assessments are kept up to date and that how they manage their schools through their daily operational procedures, are reviewed and given the highest profile. This will include reminders to staff and children about how to move about their school building safely etc. and how to minimise the risk of any spread of infection. Please be rest assured that cleaning regimes will continue to be given high priority and that our schools will be following the advice given to them by the Department for Education. Please also continue to support your schools by practising and modelling social distancing at drop-off and pickup times.

Please may I ask that you continue to send your child to school as usual, but only if they are fit and well, of course. If your child develops any Covid-19 symptoms then please keep them at home and then contact your school as soon as possible, so that we can put in place any further measures necessary, in keeping with advice from local public health officials.

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I realise that going into a lockdown during the winter months will be quite frightening for many people (and not just children). Therefore, I wanted to reassure you that we completely understand people's natural concerns and that we wish to do our best to keep our schools as safe and secure as we can in order to maintain education for all, which is so important not only for your child's future but also for their present mental health and wellbeing. What none of us can predict is exactly what the next few months will hold of course, however, given the way that we have worked together to face the past seven months, then I remain confident we can deal with this new national situation, just as long as we keep communicating well and working in partnership. Please continue to take care of yourselves and your loved ones. With my very best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark J Davies'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Mark J Davies
Chief Executive
Trust in Learning (Academies)