



29th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to thank all parents and carers for the support you have given our schools since the introduction of the new national lockdown at the start of term. Whilst our schools are only open to children of critical workers or vulnerable pupils, all our staff are working extremely hard to ensure that all children who are not on site can access the curriculum through remote learning.

The Prime Minister indicated earlier this week that the earliest possibility of schools opening to more pupils other than children of critical workers or vulnerable pupils would be 8th March. I must stress however, that this is the earliest date that schools *could* potentially open to more pupils and is by no means a definitive date. Like everyone, we are hopeful that these restrictions can be lifted as soon as possible but this can only happen when it is safe to do so.

Children of critical workers

Schools are remaining open to the children of workers who are critical to the COVID-19 response and EU transition and who are unable to safely stay at home. We need to ensure that the number of pupils accessing the offer of provision in our schools is kept to the lowest number possible. Therefore, even if you are a critical worker, if your child(ren) can remain at home rather than attend school, on some or all days, then they should. Please only use the offer of provision when it is crucial for you to undertake your critical role. It remains the case that, wherever possible, all children should remain at home and be supported through a programme of remote education.

Schools are open to provide care to enable critical workers to respond to the crucial role you play in the response to the COVID-19 emergency, but you must also support your school and only use this offer of support if you have no alternatives for childcare for your child(ren). Clearly the more children and young people that attend school, the wider the risk of spreading the virus grows. I would urge all parents/carers who are critical workers to only send your child into school if there is absolutely no alternative. This will help schools to reduce potential transmission of COVID-19 in the wider community by minimising the numbers of pupils and staff on site.

Half Term Holiday

The government confirmed this week that schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week. The last day of this half term is Friday 12th February 2021. Please also note that Monday 22nd February is a designated training day for all CLP schools and, as

such, all our schools will be closed to all pupils on this day. CLP schools re-open for children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils only on Tuesday 23rd February 2021.

Families who are eligible for Free School Meals will continue to receive vouchers over the half term holiday and your child's school will be in contact with you to inform you about this shortly.

Once again, thank you for your support in these incredibly challenging times.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Banks', written in a cursive style.

Paul Banks
Chief Executive Officer

