



Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I thought I would take the opportunity this morning following the Prime Minister's announcement last night to reassure you that we are doing everything we possibly can to continue to provide the best provision possible during lockdown.

The Senior Leadership Team and I held a meeting after the Prime Minister's announcement last night to discuss any matters arising and since then we have been very busy organising our critical worker and vulnerable groups. As you can imagine this is a complex task which is finely balanced between keeping the children safe along with the staff members who we have asked to come in. We are trying our very hardest to ensure that we accommodate all those meeting the criteria whilst at the same time keeping bubbles small to ensure everyone remains as safe as possible. The Government guidance on children attending school is very clear, it is **ONLY** for the children of **critical workers**, who are **vital** in fighting the Coronavirus outbreak and those who are our **most** vulnerable students. **School places are the last resort, for those who absolutely need to attend.** Many parents who are working in these sectors may still be able to make provision to keep their children at home, if this is the case then please do this. The Government states "**the safest place for your child is at home**". For more information on the criteria for critical workers please click on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

As you can imagine during the Autumn Term we anticipated that we may be placed back in lockdown again at some point during the school year. In September, we ensured that all the children in each of our TEAM schools had access to Google Classroom and G-Suite. Later in the term we completed a pupil survey to gather the children's thoughts on remote learning to help us with our planning. It is clear that the majority of children across the Trust have devices and access to the internet meaning we are well set up for remote learning, however, if you are struggling then



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please contact your child's Head of School to discuss this so we can find alternative solutions.

As a parent of three children myself, I fully understand the challenges surrounding remote learning and that each one of them maintains a well-balanced routine during a lockdown situation. Ensuring that they continue to keep up with the curriculum set and maintain their learning is a challenge for all parents and is one of great importance. We must also balance this along with supporting their mental and physical health requirements along with our own. None of this is easy and unfortunately, there is no blueprint that I can send you to guarantee success with this. However, what I would suggest early on is establishing a clear routine for their school work combined with time to relax. Plenty of specific, positive praise also goes a very long way. With these challenges in mind, please contact your child's class teacher if you need any advice or support regarding your child's learning, mental or physical health needs.

Finally, I would ask at this stage for your continued patience and flexibility when liaising with the staff at your child's school. The situation we are currently in is extremely challenging for everyone. We will continue to keep you informed of any new developments as quickly as we can and we would appreciate it if you could do the same. As a Trust, we are committed to ensuring that we steer our way successfully through this and we are very much looking forward to enjoying a Summer Term of outdoor events in the sunshine.

Once again we thank you for your continued support in these most difficult of times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Thomas'.

Ian Thomas  
CEO TEAM-Multi Academy Trust