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Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers

As we reach half term after almost 7 weeks of schooling, we would like to reflect on what has been achieved and reveal our strategy going forward in terms of assessing our pupils.

Attendance

Attendance in all 5 schools continues to be significantly above the national figure which reflects really well on parents. Your support with this has been terrific throughout the term.

Staggered starts and social distancing

Generally parents response to our requests to keep 'bubbles' apart from others has worked as well as could be expected with many pupils not mixing outside of the bubble. It has also been noticeable at the primary schools how parents are social distancing and increasingly wearing masks which the adults in our schools, really appreciate.

Bubbles

We do absolutely appreciate that pupils needing to stay within their bubble is restrictive and annoying. However, as this strategy helps stop the virus from spreading we have to try to come to terms with it. We are hoping that as time goes by, those pupils who are struggling will get more used to the idea.

Wearing of masks

As members of staff in particular have become more concerned as the term has gone by, the need to wear masks in and around all of our schools has heightened. Thank you for reacting to this change as positively as you have.

Remote meetings

These have now become an integral part of school. We both have met many parents on a Teams or Zoom meeting. Please feel free to request such a meeting with members of staff if necessary.

Testing

Given that much schooling was lost last year together with the constant threat of a local lockdown or positive test cases, we have taken the decision to use lesson time to teach our pupils as opposed to stage long tests and assessments. This doesn't preclude mini tests or quizzes to assess progress but these will only last for 20 minutes maximum.

Parents' app

The vast majority of parents now possess this and so are able to see their child's attendance, latest report, school calendar and their child's timetable. If you haven't accessed the app as yet, please contact the school office for support in setting it up.

Finally, as we head into the two week half term, school offices will monitor phone messages on a regular basis if any are left. These will be relayed to relevant members of staff. Please follow all of the safety guidelines and stay safe and we will write to you on 29 October ahead of the 2 November return to school.

Nikki King OBE and CBE Andy Reese CEO



