



Greenacre Academy



Chantry Community
Academy



Warren Wood
Primary Academy



Hilltop Primary
Academy



Walderslade Girls'
School

19th November 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers

In this letter we reflect on the spread of the virus, the issues with closing a school, remote learning, properly isolating and the wearing of masks.

The virus throughout Kent

As you are probably aware, increasing numbers of schools in Medway and Kent are either fully or partially closing given the spike in the number of COVID cases. As in our Trust, secondary schools with the older pupils are much more affected although there are primary school closures too in some areas of the county.

Scrutiny following a school closure

The situation at Greenacre mirrors the experience of other schools in that there comes a point when so many members of staff are isolating, the quality of education on offer for those pupils still in school is much reduced compared to normal as the teaching has to be shared by those teachers who can still come into school.

A number of parents are expressing concern that with the situation deteriorating rapidly, the decision to close Greenacre might be replicated in our other schools as learning via Microsoft Teams is proving to be successful and obviously safe. This is understandable but it is not a view shared by the Government who were quick to get in touch following the Greenacre decision to express their thoughts. Understandably, ministers are increasingly worried about the state of the economy and school closures will not help this.

The Trust has been clear throughout the pandemic that safety is paramount and parents are hopefully reassured that although we will listen to advice offered, where we consider any area of a school or a school in its entirety to be unsafe, we will take action.

Remote learning

Although those pupils needing to learn from home appear to be doing this successfully, you will have been made aware by each of our schools who you might contact if your child is struggling.

The need to properly isolate

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Many pupils at home have to isolate because another in their bubble has tested positive for the virus. Clearly those in isolation must stay at home just in case they start to display symptoms. It is really important that this rule is followed and if we are including this in the letter today, it is because we have been made aware that some of these pupils are leaving the house to pick up younger siblings from other schools!

Those who are working from home because there aren't enough teachers in school to go around must also stay at home. This is one of the conditions of lockdown.

The wearing of masks

It is to the credit of the parents and members of staff in our primary schools that very good progress has been made concerning the wearing of masks on site. We really appreciate everybody looking out for each other and would just hope that the few who aren't wearing them, might reconsider.

Finally, the Greenacre free school meal hampers are ready to be collected.

We hope you have a good weekend.

Nikki King CBE and Andy Reese CEO