



Our Ref: AJC/MS

8 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Principal's Newsletter**

Firstly, can I thank you for your support during this half-term. There have been lots of changes for us all again but, as always, we have battled through it together as a community.

#### **Half-term:**

I just wanted to confirm, in-line with government guidance, that the Academy will be closed to all pupils over half-term. We will re-open to children in nursery; children classed as vulnerable and children of critical workers on Monday 22 February 2021. Please note, the procedures will continue exactly as they are at the moment, until further notice.

You will be aware that the Prime Minister has stated that he wishes schools to fully-re-open on Monday 8 March 2021, at the earliest. We will react to this and inform you, as soon as we know more.

#### **Children entitled to Free School Meals:**

Parents of children entitled to free school meals should have received an email from the Academy today, regarding the provision in place over half-term.

#### **Remote Learning:**

If any of you have been able to watch my virtual whole school assemblies, you will know that the number of pupils engaging in their education has been very high. At the end of last week, 91% of children had either been in school or engaging remotely for a significant proportion of the week. Our staff are now delivering at least two live sessions every day, many of whom are doing so whilst also teaching children in the classroom. Can I thank the children and their families for working closely with us on this – it has been a steep learning curve for everyone and I am very pleased with the results we have seen.

I would like to acknowledge the effort of the staff who have worked tremendously hard to plan, resource and deliver live lessons; recorded lessons; and general work, alongside teaching the children in school.



### **Celebrating Success:**

In order to praise the excellent work we are seeing from the children, as well as trying to re-establish the 'community-feel' during lockdown, we have been working very hard to keep our website up-to-date with news stories. We are also now on Facebook and Twitter – if any parent or family member use such outlets, you might want to follow us, so you can see the types of activities the children are completing in school and remotely. We have had a very positive response from parents so far and the children have been pleased to see so many photos of themselves.

### **Safeguarding:**

Can I just remind you to contact either Miss Plumtree, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Mrs France, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead at the Academy, if you have any concerns or queries, regarding any safeguarding matters.

### **Inclement Weather:**

Thank you to those parents who were supportive in keeping their children at home today. The weather has been changing throughout the day and I didn't know whether we would be able to keep the school open but we have, of course.

A number of staff were unable to travel as they come from some distance, so the smaller numbers have helped us. If I could repeat the message over the next few days and request that even if we are open, you please keep your children at home unless it is absolutely necessary that they attend. Ultimately, if we do close due to child and staff safety, all children will have to remain at home. I will send messages out as early as I can, when I am aware of the conditions on the roads near the school and the viability of opening, dependent on how many staff are able to travel to the school safely from their homes.

Finally, can I wish you all a very happy and safe half-term holiday. I know the children will welcome a break and I am sure that many of you will also welcome a break too.

Yours faithfully



Mr A J Clark  
Principal