

22 October 2020

### Letter from Kirklees

Dear Families,

We hope you and your family are staying safe and well.

The first half-term of the school year has, of course, been a difficult one for schools around the country. Before pupils returned in September, a wide range of measures were brought in to keep school sites as safe as possible. After pupils returned, our children, staff and families all had to work together in getting used to a 'new normal'.

We are pleased to say that, across Kirklees, the return to school has been positive. It's true to say that a number of schools have had to close bubbles and you may well have experienced this within your own family. However, Kirklees has been no different to most places in the UK. Given the scale of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was always clear that some pupils would at some point need to self-isolate. Our Kirklees schools have managed these cases calmly and effectively, ensuring different ways of learning were in place for the affected children.

Kirklees Schools and Academies continue doing a wonderful job in supporting their pupils and families, and we thank them for everything they do. At the same time, we thank you as a parent/carer for supporting your school and helping attendance levels to be good.

When a school does have to manage a Covid-19 case, it follows national guidance and acts on the advice of Public Health experts. This is a process which must be followed by all Schools and Academies. The national guidance changes from time to time, but schools are kept fully up to date and they adapt as needed.

Please remember that children should not attend school if they, or a wider member of their household, are showing any symptoms of Covid-19 or have tested positive. The main symptoms are: a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

It's important to remember that social distancing is key to avoiding the spread of infection, and this applies to school sites when you are dropping off or collecting your child. You can also help to keep children, staff and each other safe by wearing a face covering around a school site, just as you would at a supermarket. You will also aware that Kirklees as a whole is subject to Covid-19 restrictions. You can find all the details by visiting <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/health-and-well-being/covid19-restrictions.aspx>

We continue to work with Schools and Academies and provide all the help they need in supporting pupils and families. We all share the goal of providing the best possible standards of care and education for our children and young people.

Yours sincerely

CLlr Carole Pattison, Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities

Mel Meggs, Strategic Director of Children's Services