



Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers, Children and Young People,

I trust that as many of you as possible are managing to remain safe and well at this time.

In my letter last week, I promised that I would continue to provide you with updates on a Friday during the lock-down period, even if there was not too much to share.

You will have seen from the news this week that there has not been a lot more guidance issued to schools, but the guidance we have received has changed some of the ways that we are needing to work in our schools. Underpinning all that we do is the health, safety and wellbeing of everyone and this week has seen us needing to take some of the measures that I highlighted in my letter last week in some of our schools.

We have, I am delighted to say, managed to keep all of our schools open in the most-part this week. We have had a few bubble closures, and in a few schools, we have needed to flex the way the week works a little to ensure that we can remain open. Where changes have needed to be implemented, I know that schools have kept you well informed about the reasons, and the need for change. We have continued to work closely with the schools, the Local Authorities, Public Health South West, and with the Department of Education to ensure that we are doing all that we can to provide support and access to learning where needed, and to ensure that we have the flexibility to keep our schools as open as they can possibly be. For those of you who have been affected by any of the changes this week I wanted to thank you for your help, support and for the kind words of support and encouragement that have been offered to the school staff. It is hugely appreciated and highly valued by them, and us all. Thank you.

An update on the guidance to schools and to parents can be found here, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

This week has been marked out by the hugely hopeful news about the vaccine, and whilst we know that there is a long roll-out planned it gives us hope that we will be able to move out of these lockdown phases, and can then build on all of the innovation and good practice that we have developed during the pandemic that will enable us to grow and develop all that we do in our schools for the benefit of our children and young people. We have seen some amazing learning and development taking place across the Trust this week in all of our schools, and a huge amount of resilience. Whilst I cannot share all examples here, I would suggest that you check out our Twitter @DBAT\_UK and Facebook pages to see what fabulous learning and activities have been going on in our schools. In spite of what it is going on around us, it is wonderful to see that exciting, innovative learning continues to happen in all our schools.

I hope that you have a good weekend, and that week ahead is a good one for you all. Keep safe and well.

With kind regards,

*Jez Piper*

CEO

Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust