



Wednesday 21st October 2020

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

As we head off for the half-term break in our schools, I wanted to write to thank you all for the part that you have played in our successful return to school this year.

It hasn't always been easy for anyone: I understand the pressures on families and the difficult decisions at the start of the year about the return to school; we've had to close some bubbles because of Covid; and there have been times when families, staff and children have had to be away from school in self-isolation. It has been a complex time. Yet despite this I am grateful for the positivity and support that has been shown towards our schools in their continued efforts to do all they can to provide consistency and good quality education for our children and young people at a time when it has been rather hard to do this... Thank you.

I also wanted to offer you continued reassurance that we are watching the national and local situation very closely and will continue to keep you informed of any changes that will impact our ability to open schools, breakfast and after-school clubs, and pre-schools.

You will have seen in the news the ongoing discussions about 'circuit-breaker' lockdowns and similar suggestions. Whilst there is no guidance or information about this at the moment, should a decision be reached during the half-term which impacts on our schools we will ensure that you are informed and aware of what we are going to do. I can assure you that, should we ever need it our schools have been working extremely hard together to ensure that we have a high quality approach to 'blended learning' and home-learning that will be provided for all families if they are unable to return to school. We hope that this will not be the case, but are well prepared, just in case.

Next term starts on Tuesday 3rd November for all of our schools – this enables all of the staff in the Trust to come together (this year online!) for professional development and training to support them and the children and young people in our work in schools and communities. We are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back on 3rd November for what promises to be another exciting term and, we hope, more consistency for our children and young people in their learning and development.

I hope that you all have a positive and restful half-term, whatever you end up doing, and that you keep safe and well.

My thanks again for your continued support.

With kind regards,

Jez Piper

CEO

Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust