

No 1 Multi Academy Trust for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes

DfE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2019 AND No 3 IN 2018

Top 10 National Pupil Progress

DfE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2018 AND 2019



12th January 2021

Dear Parents

We are now in our second week of this term and our days continue to look very different. We continue to have some children who are working onsite and some children who are working remotely.

To those parents who are supporting their children with remote learning at home I just wanted to say a big thank you. You have been very patient and understanding when we have had technical issues and we continue to work to ensure that we are addressing these as they occur.

I wanted to write to you today with some key information that I think is important for you to both be aware of and also to be considering at this time. As I stated in my initial communication, I will always endeavour to write to you with such updates as and when it is necessary.

Children attending school

As you are aware, the government has requested that schools move to remote learning for pupils with the exception of some children who are able to attend school as set out by government guidance.

I feel that at this time it is necessary for you to consider carefully about whether, if you have currently taken up a school place, this is absolutely necessary.

As you know, the national effort is one currently of limiting the number of contacts within the community. As a school, we are working incredibly hard to ensure that we are following guidance set out by the government, following a robust risk assessment here within school and doing all that we can to keep our children, staff and the community safe.

The number of positive cases of COVID continue to rise across the country and the region and we need to be very aware of this in every decision that we make- both as a school and as a parent body.

I am currently working with both Mrs Stephens and Mrs Alpey to ensure that the numbers of children attending school remain safe and that places are taken up by those children who absolutely cannot stay at home safely as was the case in the previous national lockdown.

I would like to remind you of the categories of exemption at this time:



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We are open to all **nursery children** and they can continue to attend as normal. There is no change.

We are open to **vulnerable children** and the designated list is as follows:

- Children who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked after child
- Children who have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- Children who have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or Local Authorities and could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - Children on the edge of receiving support from children's services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - Adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - Those at risk of being NEET (not in employment of education)
 - Those living in temporary accommodation
 - Those who are young carers
 - Those who have difficulty engaging in remote education at home (we will talk to you about this if we feel your child is eligible under this criteria)
- Care leavers
- Other children at the provider and LAs discretion including pupils who need to attend to receive support or manage risk to their mental health.

We are open to **children of critical workers**. Government guidance clearly states that '**Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.**' It also states that schools are able to request evidence (such as a payslip or ID badge) from parents who identify as being a critical worker if necessary.

Eligible children who have parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections:

- Health and Social Care
- Education and childcare



- Key Public Services: essential to running of the justice system; religious staff; charities delivering frontline services; those responsible for management of the deceased; journalists and broadcasters
- Local and National Government; only those administrations essential to the delivery of COVID-19 response, EU transition and essential public services such as payment of benefits and certification and checking of goods for export and import
- Food and other necessary goods; production, processing, distribution and those essential to other key goods such as hygienic and veterinary medicine
- Public Safety and National Security
- Transport and Border
- Utilities, Communication and Financial Services.

I would urge you, at this critical time in the national effort, to consider very carefully if your child needs to take a place in school or if they can work safely from home using the remote learning platform. By reducing the number of children in school, we continue to ensure that our children, staff and community stand an increased chance of being safe. Please also note that, if you feel that it is absolutely necessary for your child to attend school, that they **only do so on required days** (they do not need to attend each day if this is not required).

Please do understand that (once it is safe to do so and we are allowed to by government guidance) we are really looking forward to a time when we can all be together once again and have the children back in school. However, now is the time to be cautious and to carefully consider our individual part in the national effort and how we can work together to come out of this situation sooner rather than later.



Remote Learning

I also wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with some reassurance regarding remote learning. As a staff here at school, we know that you will all be doing your best with remote learning. I completely understand the different situations that many of you find yourselves in at this time. The vast majority of you did not train to be teachers and you now find yourselves in a position where this has become a daily part of your life- that can be tough. There have been a number of individual concerns this week regarding how much work you have been able/unable to complete, the time spent on lessons, keeping the children motivated etc. Please know that if you are experiencing this that you are **not alone!** The message that I would like you to remember at this time is to be kind to yourself. Some days you may find learning together at home easier than others. Some days you may complete more learning than others. This is completely normal and especially so early in this process and new way of working. The last thing that I want you to do is to become disheartened with your efforts as I know that you will all be very conscious of what you are doing. Please do not compare yourself to other families. As I have said, each family is different and faces their own unique situation- you need to work in a way that is the best for you and your children.

As always we are here to support you and, with this in mind, teachers will be putting together a timetable to support you and help you to have an idea of how much time should/could be spent on each lesson/area of learning. Please do not feel as though you need to spend time 'catching up' at the evenings and weekends! Working in this way does not always lead to desired outcomes and it is important that you also enjoy time together as a family, to relax and look after your wellbeing.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Guntrip

Mrs Guntrip

Head of Academy