

Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Ambitions Academies Trust

Dear Parent / Carer

As we went into the Christmas break, we felt that whilst the first term of the year had had its challenges, overall, most pupils remained in school experiencing a broad and balanced curriculum offer. We certainly were unaware of what was to come in January.

We understand why the Government put us all into 'lockdown 3', however, it remains for us a frustrating place to be as children and young people are what makes schools come alive. However, what has been remarkable is how the education sector was able to galvanise itself within such a short space of time to put a programme in place to support some pupils being in school and the vast majority learning remotely. Our nurseries have remained fully open throughout.

I hope you have found the programmes/timetables/learning experience to be one that your son/daughter can engage with. There has been a great deal of work completed to ensure we get as many devices as possible out to families so that technology is not a barrier to learning.

Alongside the academic programme schools have also wanted to support parents and families in other ways. I hope you feel connected to your son/daughter's school at this time; I know there has been a focus on ensuring that there is a balance of when and how we communicate with parents and children over the past few weeks.

We don't know yet how long the 'lockdown' will last; certainly, a return after the half term now looks very unlikely. What we do know is that the rules we are being asked to follow are crucial if we are to get back to schools being able to be re-opened. Each site has clear risk assessments in place, which are reviewed regularly to ensure the measures implemented are effective. I am grateful for you and your children following the rules that are in place because of these risk assessments. Additionally, please can you also be alert to the fact that there should not be mixing of adults and children from different families on the way to or from school or at evenings and weekends. We know this is incredibly difficult to manage, particularly when older children are walking to school together or having to get public transport.

We very much hope as we go forward to provide the best education package, alongside the best support to you all. As always, your school leaders are on hand if there is anything you need to ask. Good and effective communication is so key at these most difficult times.

I and the Trust hope that you and your family and friends remain safe and well.

Best wishes



**Sian Thomas**  
**CEO**

**Ambitions Academies Trust**