

5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 School Closures

Following the government's announcement last night, I can confirm that sadly our schools will close again with immediate effect. I know that to many of you this will be a relief, to others this news will be something of a logistical challenge and frustration. I am thankful for your support during the challenging and constantly changing times we all find ourselves in. I am also extremely grateful to the headteachers and all staff in of our schools for their on-going efforts in striving to provide on-going education for our children either in school or remotely.

The government has again asked schools to facilitate on-going provision for children who are vulnerable or whose parents are key workers. Capacity within our schools may well be limited and could change over time due to any evolving staff absence as a result of the virus, so please try to make arrangements to care for your child at home or within a support bubble if you can. **The safest place for your child is at home.**

Some families will receive an offer of a place to attend school during this time of wider closure. Whether you are a key worker or not, **only families with an offer of a place should attend.** You will have received further details from your child's school today about accessing places.

Each school will have shared information about provision for those children who will attend, but the following key principles will apply across the Trust:

- Up to date contact details for family members and emergency contacts must be available within school should your child become poorly/exhibit any symptoms of Covid-19.
- If you become unwell with Covid-19 symptoms, you must immediately contact the school and arrange for immediate collection of your child.
- Social distancing must be enforced whilst your child is not in school to prevent/minimise the spread of infection.
- If there any confirmed cases of Covid-19 within your child's bubble, **all** children in the bubble will be asked to self-isolate for the government recommended number of days.

Your school will share ways in which your child's learning will continue at home. We ask for your help in engaging with this as much as possible. All of our schools are keen to keep in touch with you and their children while they are working at home. We very much want to know what is going well, any challenges the children are facing and if there is anything else we can do to support them.

The next few weeks will most likely be difficult for many of us. We remain a key part of the fight against coronavirus, delivering learning that is organised very differently for children who are at home, whilst keeping our schools open for a small number of other children. It does seem very much like we have moved backwards as a country in our fight against the virus since the new variant was identified;

Mark Randall – Chief Executive - Church House, 1 South Parade, Wakefield WF1 1LP

Tel: 01924 434460 Email: mark.randall@enhanceacad.org.uk

Enhance Academy Trust – A company limited by guarantee Registered No 07904096

Encourage and Help to Achieve through Nurture and the Church of England

however, we need to remember that there is light at the end of the tunnel with the introduction of the vaccine programme. This gives us hope.

It is important to do all we can to keep children's learning moving forward at the current time, but it is just as important to ensure that the well-being of everyone in your family is taken care of. So please try to keep everything in perspective and ensure that home learning does not do more harm than good. If you are concerned about your child's mental health at any stage, do discuss this with your child's school to see how they can support.

We continue to be extremely grateful for all the efforts of our staff and for the on-going support we have had from our parents and carers. As soon as we receive further guidance from the government, we will update you all in as clearly and timely a manner as possible.

We look forward to welcoming all of our children back to school from Monday 22nd February or as soon as it is safe to do so.

Please stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully

Mark Randall
CEO
Enhance Academy Trust

Mark Randall – Chief Executive - Church House, 1 South Parade, Wakefield WF1 1LP
Tel: 01924 434460 Email: mark.randall@enhanceacad.org.uk
Enhance Academy Trust – A company limited by guarantee Registered No 07904096

Encourage and Help to Achieve through Nurture and the Church of England