

Thursday 11th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach half term, I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge well done to our NEST pupils for the way in which they have engaged with their learning this half term, whether they be at home or at school. We continue to have excellent levels of engagement across the Trust and our staff are really impressed with the way in which pupils have adapted to learning in a different way. I would also like to thank you, the families, for all you are doing to ensure that your children engage in the broad range of learning opportunities. We really appreciate your support and commitment, often in difficult circumstances and whilst juggling a range of commitments.

I am also grateful for the messages you have sent to school leaders to let them know how pleased you are with the remote learning provision. Such positive feedback helps to sustain our staff, although I know they would rather be in school working with your children as normal.

As you know, the Prime Minister has confirmed that schools will remain partially open, as now, until at least 8th March. This means at least two more working weeks working from home for the majority of our pupils after the February half-term break. We are yet to be given details of how pupils will return to school on March 8th and what plans schools need to put in place, although we are busy planning a curriculum to meet the needs of your children when they return. When the Government indicates when and how schools will be able to open to more children, we will be in touch to confirm the arrangements.

Leaders continue to review their risk assessments to ensure that they are providing safe school environments for pupils and staff. In addition, schools are participating in the programme of lateral flow testing of school-based staff. Headteachers will continue to monitor the Track and Trace procedures over the February half term, so please ensure that you inform your school by email, if there is a positive case of Covid in your family during this period. The success of these procedures and the vaccination roll-out should bring hope and confidence to all our communities.

With very best wishes for a restful and safe half term.

Yours faithfully,

Paula Farrow

CEO NEST