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Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of term, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of our schools. I recognise that this is a testing time and know that many of you will be juggling stressful family circumstances, home working and a multitude of other challenges. I am therefore very grateful for all that you are doing to keep a focus on your children's learning and engagement.

I would also like to acknowledge the work that the staff team have been carrying out over this term. In a very short timeframe, staff have been able to provide a strong remote learning offer; continue to deliver lessons to those children who are in school; arrange for provision of digital devices for those most in need of them; ensure that meals, hampers or vouchers reach those that are eligible for free school meals and keep in touch with families. Like you, they too are managing their own family circumstances alongside this.

Over the past two weeks we have seen what is, in some cases, quite a significant increase in pupil attendance from those where one parent falls within the critical worker category. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the Government's advice as follows:

*"Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can."*

The Government have asked us to follow this advice and play our part in the national fight against the virus. I would therefore ask that you please reflect upon the above before contacting your child's school to seek a place, considering for example, whether there is another parent at home who can be at home with the children, whether you are able to take advantage of any 'child care bubble'.

We have been told by the Government to expect further announcements about the national lockdown on 22 February and are anticipating that this will include pathways for at least some year groups to return to school. The Government have advised the education sector that they will be given two weeks' notice of any return, enabling schools to continue to deliver remote education and prepare for what any return may look like, potentially in March.

Finally, I hope that, whilst we may not be able to go very far, you are all able to find some opportunities to relax and recharge over the coming week.

With kind regards,

Emily Massey  
Chief Executive Officer

Chief Executive Officer: Mrs Emily Massey

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