



East Dale Road
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theeducationalliance.org.uk

7th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to you with our regular update and hope that you and your families are well.

Government's pandemic planning

It is difficult to avoid talk of timescales and the difficulties of schools re-opening; some of that talk is helpful and constructive, while some is the complete opposite. We expect the government to make a major announcement on Sunday about the roadmap for moving the country beyond our current restrictions and schools will be a significant part of that. We do not yet know what that might look like but we do not expect there to be any changes for schools before 1 June and for the first step to be a very limited re-opening.

Next week we will be holding a series of extended online meeting with Heads and trust leaders to plan our response and will keep you fully informed. I hope you know from the way we have worked so far in this crisis that we will put the wellbeing of pupils and families as well as staff and their families at the forefront of our thinking. This remains a time of such uncertainty but we want to re-assure you that we will do everything we can to approach this with professionalism and good sense and will keep you fully informed at every stage.

Online work

We are really grateful for the feedback we have received recently from parents and carers on our online learning. We were delighted that responses were really positive, with just over 90% of parents happy with the quality and accessibility of the work. The many comments expressing thanks and gratitude to staff were a real boost and we thank you for those. We have read all of the free text comments we received and have tried to respond to them through a set of FAQs for parents, picking up the points raise. You will find these alongside this letter, but we also recognise you may have a specific enquiry so please do not hesitate to contact the school through the designated support emails found on the school website.

There has been a great deal of discussion nationally about the pros and cons of "live" online teaching and there were a number of really helpful comments from parents about this. You will see we have tried to share with you what we are taking into consideration as we continue to develop online learning.

School trips

Across our schools, several hundred pupils were booked onto school trips that could not take place due to travel restrictions. We are working with a number of travel companies and insurers to secure refunds of all money paid for trips that have been cancelled. This is proving to be a very difficult process and is likely to take several months. We do not think it is acceptable for parents to wait such a long time, particularly at this time of increased hardship for many people. We have taken the decision therefore, to process refunds to parents now so that people are not out of pocket. If your



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child was due to go on a trip **for which the travel date has now passed**, you will receive a full refund as quickly as we can process them.

Community work

We continue to be incredibly proud of the contribution that staff and pupils are making to our communities in these difficult times. We have supported Women's Aid in Hull this week with 20 care bags filled with toiletries, posh coffee, pamper products, chocolates, mugs and treats, put together entirely voluntarily by members of staff. Similar care bags have been produced for care homes and we are producing new batches of visors for health workers and 200 scrubs bags for staff in the NHS. This is just some of what is going on and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who has been or continues to be involved in volunteering activities.

We will write to you again next week as soon as we have a clearer picture of the government's plans. We hope you all get chance to do something nice this bank holiday weekend – at least for those who still can work out what day of the week it is! Something we are sometimes struggling with! Wishing you and your families all the very best.

Yours faithfully

Jonny Uttley
CEO

Patrick Sprakes
Headteacher



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