



March 18<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Further to my letter yesterday, I am writing to update you on expectations for children currently in self-isolation situations. Today we are aiming to have work on our TCLT website [www.tcltrust.org](http://www.tcltrust.org) This work will be for children from Early Years to Y6.

However, please can I ask that you are patient and do not make unnecessary demands of our schools? We are already working way below capacity as many of our staff are also self-isolating. That means that teachers are teaching without their normal preparation breaks to keep the school open and functional. Finding additional time to prepare online resources for when or if the school is mandated to close by the government is currently our top priority and we are working hard to be prepared for that eventuality.

We recognise that some of you are self-isolating with children who are relatively well, however we have to currently treat them as an absentee and therefore as in normal circumstances we will not be able to guarantee to provide additional work for them – so please do not ask. We are working hard to have some resources available as outlined above so please keep checking the websites.

Most of our Head teachers are now having to take classes so unless your request is very urgent, please allow them to deal with the currently very difficult task of keeping the school workforce and all your children safe and give them 48 hours to respond to you. If you need to keep your child off please inform the school through the usual channels – we understand that you are acting in the best interests of your families – you don't need to tell the Head teacher!

We are however beginning to reach the point where we are making safety considerations, which might necessitate closure of certain year groups. Some schools have nearly twenty staff absences to deal with. Each school will make this decision based on their own contexts so it will not be the same in all TCLT schools. Head teachers will keep you informed of these decisions.

I would like to publicly thank all our staff for remaining so professional throughout this difficult time. I know that parents are very anxious but I thank you for your support. I personally saw three dolphins in the river Tyne this morning, an unusual sight whilst walking a dog at 6am, but it brought a smile to my face and I recommend trying to focus on the many beautiful things around us and showing our wonderful children

how we can try to be as resilient as possible even when the future is uncertain and we do not know the answers!

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice A. Witherow". The signature is written in a light gray color and is positioned centrally below the closing text.

Alice Witherow  
Chief Executive Officer