

Message from Debi Bailey, CEO

Welcome to our first newsletter of the school year. You will see that we are using our new logo which has been developed to promote our official name. We are officially now NEAT Academy Trust (instead of Newcastle East mixed multi Academy Trust, which was a bit long-winded). Over the next few weeks you'll see this rolled out across our website, social media and key documents. We hope you like our modernised image and encourage you to keep up-to-date with trust news between each newsletter by:



- following us on Twitter @neatschools
- joining the [NEAT Academy Trust](#) network on LinkedIn

Covid-19 response

All of our schools have worked extremely hard this half-term to put significant measures in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19. We continue to review our risk assessments every week and ensure these reflect the latest advice and guidance.

To date we have had a steady trickle of pupils and staff testing positive for Covid-19 across all but one of our schools. These have been isolated cases and reflect the relatively high levels of community infection across Newcastle and surrounding local authorities.

In each case this has resulted in groups of pupils and staff who had been in close contact with those individuals having to remain at home and self-isolate as a precautionary measure. I can assure you that whenever a case occurs we closely follow the protocols from the City Council and Public Health to ensure that we act responsibly to keep our pupils and staff safe.

None of these cases has identified any shortfalls in our current procedures and many schools across the City and the region have had a similar experience.

I appreciate this is a concerning time for families and your school will continue to keep you informed if they have any more confirmed cases so that you're aware of whether or not your child needs to self-isolate. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support during this time.

I'm sure everyone will have welcomed the news today that the rate of Covid infections across the North East is slowing down. A statement from the Council leaders stresses that, "It has only been possible to slow the virus because the overwhelming majority continue to do their bit. Reducing social contact remains key to stopping the spread of Covid." So I urge everyone to remember Hands – Face – Space.

Please help your children over half-term keep up the good habits they have learnt when they have been at school and we look forward to seeing all of our children back after the half-term break. It is vital that every pupil who is able to attend school does. Together we are the difference.

October Half-Term

Arrangements for reporting Covid-19 positive tests or self-isolation

- **Please do NOT telephone your school.**
- **Please telephone the NEAT Academy Trust Office on 0191 2284090 between 8.30am-4.30pm Monday-Friday if you need to report that:**
 - Your child has tested positive
 - Your child is self-isolating
- **Alternatively, you can e-mail us at admin@neat.org.uk but you MUST include your contact details so we can call you back**

Remote learning

Our schools continue to work hard to ensure pupils are able to learn effectively if they are unable to attend school.

All of our schools have an on-line solution so that pupils who have to self-isolate can access their learning online and/or at home. Benfield School is making fantastic progress with using technology and developing on-line resources to support learning using Microsoft Teams. Our primary schools have a combination of on-line platforms/apps and other resources. We are also currently providing work packs so that pupils can also complete work without having to access online learning if this is required.

In all cases where pupils are going to be absent for an extended period of time due to Covid, schools are able to apply to the DfE to get a device for pupils who don't have a suitable device or broadband connection at home to ensure they can access remote learning.

Parents play a key role in supporting our vision of embedding remote learning across all of our schools and we are working on ways of providing support/training for our families- watch this space!

Supporting pupil wellbeing

I'm delighted to introduce you to Rachael Nevin-Lewis who has joined the trust as a qualified School Counsellor, initially for a year.



Rachael works across the trust and has a base in each school and she will soon become a familiar face to pupils and staff alike. She was previously a teacher so is experienced in working with young people.

Providing support for pupils with their emotional wellbeing has never been more important than in these challenging times so this is a really valuable addition to our welfare services.

'Dance in an envelope'

We are hugely grateful to Nadia Iftkhar, one of our trust's directors, and Artistic Director and CEO of the Newcastle-based dance company Company of Others, for organising a dance-based activity pack to keep 3-7 year olds - and their grown-ups - active over October half-term.



Parents/carers of those age groups should look out for an envelope sent home with their child containing all the details.

Why not post some pictures of your child taking part on your school's Facebook page?

Have a great half-term and stay safe.

