

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents,

Thank you for the efforts and sacrifices you and your families have been making to support the continuing fight against COVID. The support you have given is a credit to you and your families. In writing to you today, we are again asking for your support in order that we maximise the impact of the current Tier 4 restrictions in the hope this is the last time we have to 'lock down'.

As you are aware, schools are closed to most children to reduce the number of contacts across society so that we are better able to suppress the spread of the new COVID variant. Whilst schools are open to the children of critical workers and there is no limit on those who can attend, it is vitally important that if you are a critical worker, you only make use of this option when and where it is absolutely necessary and there is no ability for your child to remain safely at home. The fewer the number of children we have in school, the less contacts there will be and the easier it will be for your child's school to remain COVID secure.

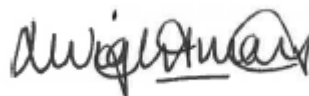
Every reduction we can make, even if this is only for one morning or afternoon, when added together, will further reduce contacts across society and reduce the opportunity for the virus to spread. This, in turn, will allow us all to exit the current restrictions sooner than may otherwise be the case.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and once again, thank you for your family's efforts and sacrifices; it really is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely



**Cathi Hadley**  
**Director of Children's Services**



**Lucy Wightman**  
**Director of Public Health**