



Dear parents / carers

As you be aware the scheduled half term holiday is fast approaching and I wanted to write to you to outline the Trust plans moving forward. The schools and Area Resource Bases within the Trust will be closed for the half term period (25th May-29<sup>th</sup> May). The Schools are closed as there is a need to assess the daily Gov't announcements and then interpret the guidance as it is published. I hope you can appreciate that much of the Covid-19 guidance we receive from the Department of Education has a focus on mainstream primary and secondary education, and it does take some time for the Local Authority and ourselves to interpret the guidance for SEN Schools and seek clarity where necessary. The Schools also need to carry out essential health and safety maintenance, including a thorough cleaning of each site.

Staff from each School will be in touch as usual next week, if you need to discuss provision or have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to ask.

Trust Schools and Area Resource Bases will open after half term and we are currently in discussion with the Local Authority and the Department of Education to plan how the offer currently provided can be extended in a safe, sustainable way to ensure the health, safety and well-being of pupils and staff. Schools will communicate plans later this week for provision after half term.

I would like to add that whilst the DfE is not providing funding for the FSM voucher during half term, the Trust has decided to continue to support the scheme for the half term week.

It is clear that a return to normal school life for the majority of pupils is still a considerable way off. This means that pupil support, remote learning and pastoral care will remain a very high priority in the weeks ahead. I will write with an update about future plans that are noted above in due course.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

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