

Monday 21st September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We wanted to write to you to say how heartening it has been to see so many of our pupils back at school, learning again with their friends. We also wanted to say thank you for all your support in getting the children back, for preparing them for this new academic year, and learning in different circumstances. Early feedback from schools is that our children in the city have been incredibly resilient, are responding well to the new arrangements in school and are really eager to get back learning.

Our schools in Manchester have worked hard to ensure that children have been able to return to a well-managed and safe environment and all of our schools have developed a detailed risk assessment which outlines the steps that the school will be taking to reduce the risks of spreading the virus.

As a result of these extra measures, your child's school will have some new rules and routines in place and is extremely important that you understand what these are and continue to support them throughout the term. This includes for example ensuring that children walk to school wherever possible, that all parents and carers maintain social distancing outside the school gates, and that children at secondary schools have a mask for school to wear in communal areas and to wear on public transport.

Schools also have detailed guidance which they are required to follow to reduce further infections when a child or adult presents with symptoms of COVID19 or tests positive. This will include sending other children or staff home to self isolate when they are assessed to have been in close contact with that child or adult. In these circumstances, no other member of the household is required to self isolate as well unless the child/adult who is self isolating develops symptoms. In these circumstances your child should continue to access education provided by the school while they are at home. Although we completely understand how upsetting this may be for your child and the disruption this may cause, this is an essential part of the process to reduce infection and your headteacher is following national guidance.

It is extremely important that we all play our part in preventing the spread of this disease and ensure that our schools are able to remain open. As a reminder, current law (Rule of 6) and additional restrictions for Manchester mean:

*You must not meet or socialise in groups of more than 6 people in any setting;
And in Manchester you still can't meet in other people's homes or gardens, or ask them round to your house or garden

* This does not apply to people in support bubbles. A support bubble is when a single adult, with or without children can join up with one other household.

This is in addition to regularly washing hands, wearing a mask where required and maintaining a physical distance from other people.

Thank you for your continued support on this and we trust you will be reassured by the arrangements being put in place and that welfare and a safe learning environment remains a priority for us all.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Marshall', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Paul Marshall
Strategic Director of Children and Education Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Corcoran', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Amanda Corcoran
Director of Education