

# LINK ACADEMY TRUST

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## End of Term Arrangements for all Link Academy Trust Schools

Dear Parent/Carer

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and understanding over the past two terms with all the associated strangeness of the Covid pandemic and the additional difficulties we are all having to deal with. Pupils have returned with a real enthusiasm and staff have been very impressed with how well every child has accepted and adopted the unusual measures that we have had to introduce as we manage the impact of the virus in our schools.

As a Trust we would like to share with you that, whilst many of you have been impacted, our attendance remains very high in every schools, this ensures pupils are on the road to catching up on gaps in their learning which resulted from the initial three month period of complete lock down. We have only had to close bubble groups in a single school and to those of you directly impacted by any bubble closures, thank you for your support in making the necessary arrangements. We keep our safety procedures as stringent as possible while ensuring the children enjoy school life to try and ensure we do not have any further closures.

You may have heard in the news that the Government has made a decision this week to allow schools to move a non-pupil day to the end of next week. This has been suggested to reduce the burden on staff who will need to monitor emails during the break in case there are any positive cases. If there is a positive case, we might need to notify parents in the affected class if there is a need to isolate for 2 weeks. We do not feel it is necessary to move our non-pupil day.

**We have decided that we will remain open to pupils on 18<sup>th</sup> December, as planned,** although as always we will finish earlier on Friday and your school will inform you of the staggered collection times. We feel that closing at such short notice will cause many parents a number of challenges to arrange childcare and there are lots of Christmas activities that have been planned over the week and we do not want to disappoint the children

Finally, while we are all very excited to see the start of the national vaccination programme, it will take a long while to be fully rolled out, therefore, when schools return in January, we will be working in the same ways that we are now. **All of our measures will remain in place for the Spring Term.** Whilst they are not ideal, they are helping to keep us all safe.

We will be reviewing these as the term progresses and hope that we might be able to reduce some of the restrictions during the summer term.

I would like to reiterate how well the children have coped, they have returned to school with a really positive attitude, are happy and brilliantly engaged with their learning. Thank you all for supporting their learning and supporting the staff at this difficult time. They are all highly excited about the usual Christmas festivities and doing a great job of working with restrictions. We continue to develop online learning by giving pupils support to ensure that should there be a need in future they are able to attend lessons remotely.

I would also to thank every member of staff across our Trust. They have all 'gone the extra mile' in so many ways and continue to work diligently to ensure specific 'bounce-back', Quality First Teaching is supporting your child to overcome the shortcomings of lockdown in the spring. They are balancing the curriculum to ensure the core subjects have a high profile as well as spending time on the more exciting learning whenever that is possible. Staff themselves are also working hard to ensure they have the skills to deliver more online learning should they be required to- we are all now meeting regularly online as well. All staff have also worked tirelessly to help keep our children safe. Our staff are pretty amazing!

Next week will be the last week of the Autumn Term. Friday will bring 2020 to an end and we will all be hopeful for a better 2021. All of our schools will reopen to all pupils on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. We are all looking forward to welcoming you all back then.

Thank you all for your continued support. I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, safe, New Year.

The Autumn Term CEO Newsletter will be with you early next week, we hope you enjoy hearing about your child's school, but also the wealth of activities happening across the Trust.

Yours sincerely,

Nicky.

Nicky Dunford. CEO, The Link Academy Trust.

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