



People Directorate

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**All Families
Via Schools
By email**

Dear Parents and Carers

With the October half term break starting, I wanted to thank all of you who have supported your children returning to school for the beginning of this academic year and also thank all of you who contributed to this by complying with school's arrangements for things like staggered timings and the wearing of face-coverings on school sites. Where we have had positive tests among pupils and or staff, we also appreciate your support in responding to schools identifying those pupils who then needed to self-isolate as a precaution.

The start of half term is also a good time to remind you of the requirements and regulations that are currently in place. Where relevant we ask that you follow these during the half term holiday and when the schools return the following week. The specific regulations we want to remind you of are as follows:

- You are unable to mix between different households indoors. This applies to all people mixing, including children and young people. By "households" we mean people living together under the same roof.
- This restriction on indoor mixing also applies to mixing inside pubs, bars and restaurants
- You should aim to reduce the number of journeys you make wherever possible
- After half term schools have the power to make the wearing of a face covering mandatory for all pupils in Year 7 and above when they are moving around school
- If your child or a member of your household has symptoms of the virus you must self-isolate and arrange for a test as soon as possible
- If your child tests positive for the virus over the half term, you should notify the school by email, voicemail or message immediately, even though the school is closed next week
- If your child is sent home to self-isolate as a precaution, they must remain indoors for 14 days. We have had several reports of pupils self-isolating subsequently found to not be following self-isolation regulations – these must be followed
- If your child has symptoms, and you get them tested, you CANNOT send them back to school while you await the test results
- We need your support to ensure that young people follow social distancing guidelines at all times, including on the way to and from school

On the subject of Free School Meals, you might have heard that the government took a decision not to make meals available to pupils during the half term holiday. The Council has decided to step in and provide these itself, in order to be sure no child is adversely affected by food poverty and goes hungry during the forthcoming holiday. Families who are entitled to Free School Meals are being contacted directly and given

the opportunity to access food vouchers which are paid for by the Council.

We know that the current restrictions are difficult for everyone. We would ask for your support in ensuring that all our pupils stay safe over the coming holiday and that when they return they continue to follow all regulations to keep them as safe as possible.

Stay Safe and Look After One Another

Yours sincerely,



Colin Stewart
Operational Director – Education and Inclusion