

Monday 14th September

Dear Parents & Carers

I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you all, following my decision on Friday, to close the school for fourteen days.

I fully appreciate that this decision has a significant impact on families and I want to reassure you that it was taken in the interests of Health and Safety for everyone connected with the school. That said, as a parent with young children myself I completely understand the frustration some of you have been feeling.

As you will know, a number of staff have tested positive with the virus and unfortunately current staffing levels would have made it difficult to follow current Public Health Guidance, and continue to keep the school open until self-isolation guidance has been followed.

It is really important to stress once again please that **all** safety measures, recommended by Public Health England, have been in place and adhered to since the school re-opened. Over the course of last week, after the initial confirmed case, the school has operated controls that extend beyond those recommended. The school has not in any way operated in a less careful manner than other schools. To suggest otherwise is not accurate and misrepresents the commitment and extremely hard work that the school has put in place to open to all pupils.

These are unprecedented times; we need to support one another wherever possible as a school community. I hope you won't mind me asking respectfully for your patience and support as we navigate the next few months.

Please take every care; community infection rates are rising as we know, particularly in some areas of the Tees Valley.

I look forward to seeing some of you at the school gates when the school re-opens in due course.

Kind regards



Nick Blackburn FRSA

Chief Executive Officer

