

Monday 4th January



FAO All families of Bradgate Education Partnership Infant & Primary schools

Dear All

Re: Ongoing arrangements at our schools – Re-opening January 2021

As I am sure you are fully aware our schools are currently facing severe challenges in their efforts to fully re-open tomorrow. As well as dealing with the additional pressures presented by the Tier 4 restrictions and reductions to staffing caused by the virus we are also being affected by the position taken by some of the unions who have advised their members not to attend school for face-to-face work with pupils. As a result of these challenges we have today taken the decision that some of our schools are not able to fully open this week.

Therefore, and very regrettable, some of you will be receiving communication from your school asking you to keep your child at home tomorrow, and for the remainder of this week, as part of a remote learning offer.

I know this must be a cause of great frustration, especially given the timing, but please be assured that all closures will be rigorously scrutinised by the Trust Board and kept under regular review and that no one involved within our Trust is happy with this situation. Furthermore, in the vast majority of cases headteachers have only been made aware of the availability of their staff today: making it impossible for any planning or communications to be undertaken any earlier.

Obviously, where we are able to safely and suitably open schools and classes we will continue to do so – where we are unable to do this all pupils will be offered remote learning, including live lessons.

Throughout this situation we have tried to communicate regularly and in a transparent manner. Therefore, we feel it only fair to share with you both our utter dismay at the current situation, as well as the dawning realisation that a full closure of our schools and a move back to remote learning in the near future looks increasingly likely. Our schools are fully prepared for this eventuality but we suspect that the move will come with little warning and may well be for an extended period.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your school or the Trust but please be aware that we are genuinely trying to keep schools open and minimise the impact upon our children where possible. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours Sincerely,

**Gareth Nelmes
Chief Executive Officer**

**Dean Pomeroy
Director of Schools**

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