



28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parent

Thank-you for your support last half-term. There were some difficult times with pupil and staff absences but, thankfully, we did not have any reports of anybody becoming seriously ill. I am delighted we were able to keep our schools open. We are very aware of how important it is to keep our pupils in school. We want to ensure they receive all the benefits of learning in school. We also want to start offering all the activities pupils may have missed in the last two years, such as trips and after-school events.

When I last wrote to you, the government had just updated the national guidance on COVID to reflect the growing concerns about the Omicron variant. You will, I am sure, be aware the government has now removed compulsory restrictions and is keen for us to learn to live with the virus. We will be now following the latest government guidance for schools, which can be found here:

[Schools COVID-19 operational guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/103000/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance)

There is also a general guide for managing COVID-19 here:

[COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts)

Please read this guidance. Although there is no legal requirement to stay at home if you have COVID, the guidance is clear that you should isolate. People who have the symptoms of COVID-19 are asked to remain at home and book a PCR test. Following this guidance helps protect us all and ensure we can keep our schools open.

The last two years have demonstrated how important it is for children and young people to attend school. Face-to-face education is the best way to learn and there are huge mental health benefits for pupils in socialising every day. We also know that pupils who attend school regularly perform better in examinations. Not surprisingly, pupil attendance was much lower than usual last half-term because of Omicron. We will now be doing all we can this half-term to get these attendance levels back to normal.



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Please get in touch with your child's school if you need any help or if we can explain how the guidance affects you.

I wish you a very happy and successful half-term ahead. Let's hope it remains COVID-free and life can return to normal.

Your sincerely



John McNally  
CEO Share Multi Academy Trust

