

Wellspring Academy Trust
Digital Media Centre
County Way
Barnsley
S702JW

21 September 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As I write, three weeks into the new school term, we have a national picture of around half of all schools reporting COVID positive cases, localised lockdowns and the prospect of further national lockdown if the incidences of COVID cases continues to rise. Given this picture, it appears that all schools are likely to experience partial or full closures at some point - depending on the number of cases and who is affected at any given time.

We have robust risk-assessed measures in place in school to minimise the risk of virus transmission. We will continue to operate as closely to 'normal' as we are able while it is safe to do so. We cannot, however, offer any guarantees about how this situation will evolve or how it will affect the operation of the school.

I warmly encourage you to plan as flexibly as you possibly can around your own working and childcare arrangements for the forthcoming period. If we have to close class bubbles, etc – we are likely to have to do so at little notice. The more prepared you are for this, the easier this transition. We have measures in place to maintain continuity of education in the event of closure. These will be implemented as and when required.

We should anticipate that these conditions will exist on into the near future. There is much still unknown about the virus, its behaviour, the potential for re-infection, etc. We also have the prospect of the winter colds and flu season fast approaching. These are very difficult times for all of us.

No school would make a choice to have children at home were there safe enough prospects of them being in school. It is a great frustration for all that this position exists in the country. It is crucial that we support one another and support our schools through this next period.

With every best wish,



Mark Wilson
Chief Executive Officer, Wellspring Academy Trust