

October 2020

Dear parents/carers/staff,

**End of term message from Chris Hill, CEO**

We end this first half term of the year in what can only be described as an uncertain position about what will happen through the remainder of the year. However, in our schools I feel we have all risen to the challenges of getting back into our academic routines successfully by following new procedures and rules to keep each other safe.

And most importantly we must continue to look after each other during half term...

As you will know Prime Minister Boris Johnson recently announced the new three tier system. Northamptonshire has been placed in Tier 1 of the national Covid-19 alert system, but positive cases have trebled since September and residents are warned 'Just because you can, doesn't mean you should,' in a bid to curb a further rapid rise. Tier 1 is medium risk but public health officials are warning the county is at a "tipping point" and could be elevated into Tier 2.

**So, my message to you is "Let's be firm this half term".**

I am following public health guidance and urging you to make half-term a "natural circuit breaker".

For your own wellbeing it is important that you take time out and look after your health. Hopefully we will get some nice weather so we can get out into parks and the countryside which is recommended rather than families mixing together at home and inside. And that certainly means sleepovers are not recommended.

**We are being asked again to "Act now".**

I fully support this message to help reduce the spread of Covid-19. The rules are:

- Keep two metres apart and use a face covering where distance can't be kept
- follow the rule of six
- meet outdoors
- wash hands regularly for 20 seconds
- do not share items with those outside your household or bubble
- avoid public transport
- work from home if you can

Thank you all for taking the time to read this. We have done extremely well in our community and in our schools to keep the spread of Covid-19 to the level it is, but we cannot be complacent. I look forward to welcoming all our children safely back to school in November and hope you enjoy a well-deserved break this Autumn.

With best wishes,



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