

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Families,

As we approach Spring half term, can I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support throughout this current National Lockdown.

We have remained open throughout this lockdown, however, attendance has been limited which has helped us to reduce the number of contacts that all of us have had with other people from other households. This has been important, especially in light of the new variant which is more transmissible and also whilst cases have been very high in Hartlepool.

Daily cases, on average, appear to be declining as a result of the strict lockdown measures in place across the country. In Hartlepool, on average, rates are steadily decreasing which is reassuring for all of us, however, they still remain high (latest week 23-29<sup>th</sup> Jan there were 315 new cases in Hartlepool compared with the average area in England being 260).

We are hoping to receive announcements from the Prime Minister on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February setting out a roadmap for easing restrictions in England, which may include announcements for increasing attendance of children in mainstream schools and colleges. We will continue to review Government guidance alongside the rate of new cases within Hartlepool and our neighbouring towns, which will inform our ongoing risk assessments. We will keep families updated with any changes and write to you again following these announcements when we return.

After half term, we will continue to remain open. Please can you inform teachers in this week's welfare checks whether your son/daughter will be returning immediately after half term.

We will be breaking up Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> February for half term. To assist contact and tracing while we are away from college, can you please contact the college on **07540724037** to alert us if anyone in your household develops symptoms, or tests positive, within 48 hours of being in college. This means if symptoms develop on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> of February. This will allow us to identify contacts that may have happened in college.

If symptoms develop after Saturday or Sunday, you **DO NOT** need to contact the college but should follow Government guidelines on isolating.

We will be returning from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. Your child should not return on this date if they or a member of their household is symptomatic, or your child is positive, or your child is isolating because they have been a contact of a positive case.

Once again thank you for all your support through these challenging times.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Greig  
(Interim CEO)