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Head Teacher of Court Lane Academies: Mrs Judith Ramshaw

5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you all had a decent half term despite awful weather and rather depressing announcement of another national lockdown. The good news is that at this time schools are staying fully open. This is great, but adjustments are needed to keep everyone safe as the threat from Covid is building.

Once again, we ask for your understanding and full support as Court Lane Academies feel our way through this unchartered period. Therefore, as we are into lockdown today:

- **A mask or face covering must be worn when stepping into either school site (unless exempt). Thank you to the increasing number of adults who have already been doing this.**
- **Do not congregate on pathways surrounding our schools. Ensure you do not stand in any gateway or block flow through a one-way route.**
- **Ensure you do not do a three-point turn in gateway access points or park inconsiderately across/on resident's property or stop illegally on marked lines.**
- **Do stick to the bubble window time for drop off/collection. If your child is in a later group please do not arrive before the allotted time.**
- **One accompanying adult only please (from same household or support bubble). Younger accompanying siblings must not be on the play apparatus.**
- **Pupils should not be having playdates, sleepovers or real contact outside of school. We realise this is horrid but we all need to try to reduce the R rate ASAP.**
- **Only come into buildings if you have a prior appointment.**
- **For the time being Years 5 and 6 can continue to walk home unsupervised but we expect them to go straight home. If we hear of pupils from across bubbles together, or not heading directly home, we may need to reverse this decision.**
- **Please refrain from sending in bags and home equipment into school.**
- **Please only bring items to office doors if absolutely necessary e.g. medicine.**

It might also be very tempting because of lockdown for adults also to see school as a social interaction opportunity but this creates congestion and much less chance of being able to keep our distance. The message therefore is drop and go, please do not linger or gather on local streets. Social distancing between adults is crucial.

Continue to talk to children about hands, face, space and support the Court Lane Academies in trying to keep the virus out of our school.

**School attendance is compulsory for all pupils during this period of lockdown**, unlike last spring. Parents and carers **must** send their children to school unless they are ill, are displaying symptoms of Covid-19 and need to

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be tested/awaiting results or are in self-isolation for two weeks due to a household member or close contact having tested positive. As you know, if your child is not unwell but has to remain at home they should be accessing Court Lane remote learning provision.

You have been brilliant in getting your children to school so far this Autumn (97% attendance rate), in keeping offspring away if they have needed a test, in sharing information with us, asking advice and adhering to protocols on site. Thank you so much.

Our pupils are incredible. They come in every day, upbeat, happy and keen to see their peers, learn and engage. You should feel so proud of them all. Indeed, I began my last half term in the Court Lane community this week and watched as they bounced back into school, with resilience and those special childish qualities that have kept me teaching for over 35 years.

The staff are magnificent, I am sure you can imagine the worry and additional pressure trying to keep the virus at bay has added to the work of staff in school every day, especially when many of them are coming to school with vulnerabilities of their own. Staff consistently give their all to the pupils, talking to the pupils whenever adjustments are made so that the key message of needing to be more careful to stay safe, well and healthy is repeatedly communicated. The Pause week theme before half term of 'Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds' and our vibrant and engaging learning environments all support this messaging to the children. There is no requirement for children to wear masks.

We are currently updating you on how your children are progressing this term with parent/teacher phone consultations at the Infant school this week and scheduled for next week at the Junior school.

#### Potential new starters for September 2021

If you or any friends or family have children due to start school, either in year R or Year 3 in September 2021, you will know that current preventative measures mean that we have had to cancel our guided tours/open events. Instead, we have produced some lovely presentations/videos for our two schools and what we are all about. These will be available to view from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November on each school website under the 'Information' and then 'New Entrants' tab. We will continue to add content to this section as we move forward in the year. If you have any admission queries please phone either school office and they will be happy to advise on the admissions procedure. Additionally, if you have any general questions for the Senior Leadership Team after looking at the virtual videos and school websites, then we are holding virtual meetings on:

- Court Lane Junior School - Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> November, 1.30pm-2.30pm and 4pm-5pm
- Court Lane Infant School – Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> November 4pm- 5pm & Fri 13<sup>th</sup> November 1.30pm-2.30pm

Please call the school office if you wish to book on one of these.

Please remember the Care First website is available to support you and your family and contains some useful information to help us all through this time. <https://www.carefirst-lifestyle.co.uk>

Username: unicatp

Password: wellbeing

There are also a wealth of resources to help support wellbeing on our school websites, go to 'community' and then the 'wellbeing' tab.

Thank you again for all you are doing to look after each other, our school community and for helping keep infection down and protecting the NHS. You are not alone. We are all in this together.

Take care,



Mrs J Ramshaw  
Head Teacher



Mrs K Geddes  
Head of School