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Dear Parents and Carers

Like you, we eagerly await the government announcement due on February 22nd that will layout plans for a possible loosening of lockdown restrictions and give some clarity and a firm date for the planned return to school. Whilst the date of the 8th March has been discussed in the media, we will not know whether this is the case until it is officially announced. What the government have promised, is to give Headteachers and schools two weeks' notice of a return to allow us to plan properly. As always, as soon as we hear anything, we will work through the guidance and expectations and then inform parents of our plans.

Thank you for playing your part and helping to keep our school safe by following current government guidelines during the national lockdown. It is so important that we don't become complacent during half-term so we can all enjoy the break and hopefully come back to either remote, or face to face learning (for children currently attending school) safely.

Hertfordshire County Council have asked us to share the following information with you as a reminder of what we all can and cannot do during the lockdown restrictions. Please do take the time to read it and remind your children that for now, we all have to play our part to protect ourselves, our families and our friends.

Even if your child is currently attending school for face to face learning or they are learning remotely from home - the same lockdown rules apply

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Try to stay at home as much as possible✓ Exercise just with your household, or if alone you can meet just one other person (not household)✓ Remind children they must socially distance when not at home (even if they are currently in a bubble at school)✓ Stay in your local area if you have to go out for essentials✓ Remember 'Hands, Face, Space'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Mix with people outside of your household or support bubble✗ Allow older children to meet up with more than one friend for exercise (even if they are currently in a bubble at school)✗ Have play dates with friends✗ Have sleepovers✗ Allow children to touch or hug their friends if you do happen to bump into them✗ Take children to the shops unless you really have to

Thank you for playing your part to keep our communities safe

For more information go to
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus



Happy children learn, happy staff thrive, happy parents build a community



Keep your child safe online

It is important to have regular conversations about staying safe online and to encourage children to speak to you if they come across something worrying online. These resources provide guidance for parents and carers to keep children safe online. They will, amongst other things, support you to talk to your child about a range of online safety issues, set up home filtering in a child-friendly way and set up age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices:

- [Thinkuknow](#) by the National Crime Agency - Child Exploitation and Online Protection command (NCA-CEOP) provides resources for parents and carers and children of all ages to help keep children safe online
- [Childnet](#) has developed [guidance for parents and carers](#) to begin a conversation about online safety, as well as [guidance on keeping under-fives safe online](#)
- [Parent Info](#) is a collaboration between Parent Zone and NCA-CEOP, providing support and guidance for parents and carers related to the digital world from leading experts and organisations
- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has [guidance for parents and carers](#) to help keep children safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) provides tips and advice for parents and carers to keep children safe online - you can also [report any harmful content found online through the UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Reporting COVID cases

It is essential that you inform us about any positive COVID cases or even COVID symptoms of anyone in your household. Over the February holiday, please report any COVID absence or positive tests directly to your child's school on the following addresses.

head@beechfield.herts.sch.uk

head@cherrytree.herts.sch.uk

head@lhaines.herts.sch.uk

If anyone in your household develops any of the following three symptoms, your whole household must isolate and you need to arrange testing immediately.

- a high temperature – this means you or your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature, but if your child's temperature is over 38 degrees, this qualifies as a high temperature in addition to the feeling hot to touch on their chest or back)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you or your child usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you or your child cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If someone in your household tests positive - all members of your household and anyone the positive case has had close contact with must isolate for 10 days from last contact- this may include your support / childcare bubble.

Remote learning

Thank you for your hard work and support with home schooling and remote learning. To continue to help us shape our offer could you please take a few minutes to complete our [parent survey](#). This will remain open until Friday 26th February 2021.

Helpline

The pastoral helpline will not be staffed over the school holidays in order to give our staff a break. If you have any concerns, please e mail the school office or pastoral leads and they will pick these up when we return to school.

Half term

As we enter a holiday period, we always say to our staff to switch off from work for a bit and focus on relaxing with your family and friends. We offer the same message to you all. Please give yourselves and your children a break, you have all earned it and thoroughly deserve it.

James Roach – CEO, Inclusive Multi Academy Trust
Gillian Jackson – Headteacher, Beechfield School
Cheska Tyler – Headteacher, Cherry Tree School
Sebastian Gray – Headteacher, Laurance Haines School