



Knowsley Council

11th December 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, I wanted to formally say 'thank you' for your continued hard work and support in what has been an extremely challenging year.

From September, you welcomed pupils through your doors who had missed months of formal teaching, but I am so impressed with how everyone has risen to the challenges COVID-19 has presented.

In addition to playing catch up with pupils, you have also embraced all of the advice, guidance, new working practices and processes that we've had to introduce in response to the pandemic.

I know it hasn't been easy, but I'm delighted that our classrooms are once again open and we can provide the very best learning experiences for our children and young people.

As you know, our infection rates are coming down, but we can't be complacent. With the festivities approaching, restrictions are being lifted slightly to enable family and friends to meet. If you don't know the rules, you can create a Christmas Bubble with no more than three other households, meeting in a household but not in pubs or restaurants. It's for five days only from 23-27 December and then from 28 December, Tier 2 restrictions resume which mean that different households cannot mix in any indoor setting. This will cover the new year period too.

There are also changes around self-isolation rules. From Monday 14 December, people who are in the same household, support bubble or are a close contact of someone who has tested positive will now need to self-isolate for 10 days (previously 14 days). This is a positive step forward and will hopefully minimise any further disruption to our education provision.

We have done amazing work to bring our figures down, to once again reopen our schools and welcome back pupils. Let's keep up the good work and continue to follow the rules.

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Finally, can I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas. Enjoy your well- deserved break.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Albertina". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill Albertina
Assistant Executive Director (Education and Early Help)