



8th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I write to thank you for your support and understanding this week and to update you on what has been happening in the Red Kite Learning Trust as we adjust to the latest national lockdown. I also wish to explain how you can assist us in the weeks ahead.

None of us should be in any doubt as to the seriousness of this disease and how important it is for us all to follow the rules and ***stay home as much as we can***. Government guidelines are very clear on this... **“Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can”**.

Red Kite secondary schools are delivering education on site for vulnerable and critical worker children and remotely for all other students. Secondaries are re-planning following the recent news about exam cancellations and are gearing up for Coronavirus testing in school. We feel so sorry for our young people who can no longer shine in GCSE, A level and BTEC exams. We will work tirelessly to support them as they head towards teacher-assessed grading and in preparation for their next steps in education, training or employment.

Primary schools expecting ‘business as usual’ up until Monday evening have switched to remote learning for most children with on-site provision in school for vulnerable and critical worker children. Schools have worked incredibly hard to adapt within an almost impossible timescale with changing guidance. Some primaries are struggling to cope with the demand for places under the ‘vulnerable and critical worker’ criteria - **please only use the provision in school if you absolutely have to, even if you feel you qualify for a place.** Your cooperation helps us deliver remote education to the majority and minimises the risks of transmission in school.

Being in a Trust together means that Red Kite schools support each other and receive extra help when they need it from the central team. We are so much stronger as one team overcoming challenges together such as further developing the remote learning offer across the schools. We are sharing the brilliant ideas and successful practice that already exists and are investing in our curriculum and IT network for the benefit of every child. We want every child in our Trust having access to a device to support their learning at home. This is just one example of the positive Covid-19 legacy we plan to build. We are launching an appeal to re-purpose spare good-quality laptops so that we can provide these where pupils are currently disadvantaged. Can you help us? Details are on our JustGiving page here: <https://www.justgiving.com/redkite-learningtrust>

Thank you for being so considerate and kind to our Headteachers/Principals and other school staff as they try their very best to meet the needs of your children. We have been so grateful for the support of our parent communities throughout the pandemic. I do know how difficult this time is for all our children, families and staff but we will get through this together and happier times will return.

Very best wishes to you and your family.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Sheriff**  
CEO – Red Kite Learning Trust

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