

2nd July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Now the academic year is coming to an end we know, as parents ourselves, how difficult it has been for you and your children. We do not underestimate the impact of having to self-isolate- sometimes on many occasions. We are very grateful for the efforts you have all made and we should all be proud of our contribution in combatting the pandemic.

We are also grateful to school leaders and staff for keeping schools open and for their work to keep children and families as safe as possible while they are in school.

However, we are now seeing a concerning rise in infection rates in Gateshead. Unfortunately, this has resulted in schools having to send more pupils home to isolate than ever before. We know this causes you disruption and upset but school leaders, supported by the council, are doing this because they are following government guidance and their risk assessment.

We know this situation cannot continue indefinitely and we are in discussion with Government about the best way forward.

Meanwhile we ask you to continue to support our schools. Please remember that if your child is asked to isolate by NHS test and trace or their school they must do so.

If there are changes to this national position, we will let you know as soon as possible. We hope that the number of Covid-19 cases reduces as we all follow the national measures, allowing everyone to have a summer they can enjoy.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Alice Wiseman
Director of Public Health



Caroline O'Neill
Strategic Director
Children, Adults and Families