



12th February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

I hope you and your family are well and managing, in what has been a most unusual period since Christmas. I write to update you generally on remote education and wider school opening, as we approach the February half term holiday.

Firstly, I would like to thank you and congratulate those of you who have done your absolute best in extremely difficult circumstances to support home learning. We understand just how challenging this may have been and recognise that you may not have been able to cover everything set, despite doing your level best. As previously stated in my letter to you in January, we recognise that parents and carers may have different views on what Remote Education should involve and please rest assured we are working hard across the Trust to evaluate and develop our remote provision, drawing on feedback from pupils, parents/carers and our own quality assurance processes; we are confident in the rationale and approach we are taking and this is supported by research from Ofsted and the Education Endowment Foundation.

Secondly, I can confirm that, in accordance with government instruction, our schools will be closed to all pupils from close of school on Friday 12th February, through to Monday 22nd February.

We will re-open on 22nd February, as we are now, for our critical workers' children and the most vulnerable families. I know you will understand when I say that we are eagerly awaiting the next government instruction on wider re-opening, with an announcement expected on 22nd February, as we are all keen to return to some semblance of normality, and see the children in person, as quickly as possible. We know the impact that extended lockdown has had on our well-being, whether as a child, parent/carers or member of school staff.

We know the government's review will depend on progress made against the virus and inoculation and intends to offer us two weeks' notice, meaning we should be prepared realistically that 8th March may be the earliest date pupils begin to return. We should be able to advise further in the first week after half term. I ask for your support in continuing to work with your school's leaders and staff positively in the interim, despite being tired of the predicament we are in, as they have worked tirelessly on your behalf to keep school open, whilst offering continued education for all who are not attending school.



Contact tracing will continue in all schools for five days into the half term holiday, up to and including Wednesday 17th February. Please use the dedicated email address for your child's school to report any positive cases of Covid-19. Reminders of the dedicated email addresses will have been sent out by the individual schools and are available via school websites.

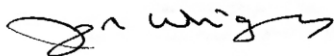
Testing sites, using lateral flow devices, have been set up in Alsop High School and Great Sankey High School, in accordance with Public Health England and DfE requirements. Staff and students who consent to testing are notified of the result within 30 minutes, which allows for swift action regarding contact tracing. All staff working in the testing spaces have received full training supplied by the NHS.

Consenting high school staff and students on site have been tested regularly, and our primary school staff were invited to use the facility whilst waiting for the delivery of lateral flow home-testing kits for staff to self-administer twice weekly. The four primary schools have now received the devices and they have been distributed to individual staff.

Comprehensive risk assessments have been reviewed to ensure we maintain Covid-secure environments and these are adhered to stringently. We monitor and review continually to respond as best we can to the changing situation and associated guidance.

Whilst you may receive more specific information from your individual school, I will write again to update you next half term. In the meantime, I wish you and your family a peaceful half term break and thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Wright', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jon Wright,
Chief Executive Officer,
Omega Multi-Academy Trust