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Date 25th September 2020**To: Parents and Carers**

Dear Parent or Carer,

We are writing to thank you for your support in getting all children back into school and to ask for your continuing efforts in following the latest guidance to help reduce the spread of coronavirus. It's been heartening to see so many of our pupils back in the classroom, learning again with their friends. Despite the rates of COVID increasing in the community, we are pleased to say that schools are managing difficult situations well, and where necessary are isolating pupils. Although any level of isolation is to be regretted, these cases have been quickly identified and effectively handled and pupils continue to receive education.

We are extremely grateful to our headteachers and everyone working in schools and colleges for the preparations they have made to ensure all children and young people can get back into the classroom, which is vital for their education and wellbeing. All children and young people value the structure and routine of regular attendance, as well as the support and positive relationships provided by their school or college. The COVID control measures that schools have put in place are really making a difference and keeping transmission low in our schools.

However, the borough's COVID rate remains high, mirroring a wider increasing trend nationally and across Greater Manchester. This means that we must all step up our actions to tackle the spread of COVID and avoid the need for further restrictions.

Most of the cases in Tameside are being spread through household transmission, but it is extremely important that we all continue to support the efforts being made in schools and colleges. This also applies outside of school, as it is vital that we all follow the national requirements. You must not meet or host people you do not live with in private homes or gardens unless they are in your support bubble. In addition to these restrictions, the Government advises that you should not socialise with people you do not live with (unless they're in your support bubble) in any public venue. Examples of public venues include pubs, restaurants, cafes, shops, places of worship, community centres, leisure and entertainment venues, or visitor attractions and parks.

We would also ask that children walk to school wherever possible, that all parents and carers maintain social distancing whilst travelling as well as around the school premises (2metres or more), and that children at secondary schools have a face covering for school to wear in communal areas and on public transport.

To help reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19:

- ✓ wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- ✓ use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- ✓ wash your hands as soon as you get home
- ✓ cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- ✓ put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- ✓ wear a face covering in enclosed spaces
- ✓ keep a social distance from people not in your household or support bubble (2 metres or more)
- ✓ do not go to work or send your children to school if anyone in the household has symptoms of COVID. Isolate and get a test for all people with any of the following symptoms as soon as possible:
 - new continuous cough and/or
 - high temperature and/or
 - a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell.

We thank you for your support and co-operation to help keep our communities safe.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Hancock
Director of Children's Services



Tim Bowman
Assistant Director of Education