

**Sally Robinson, Director**

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Our Ref: SR/JO/693  
Your Ref:



15 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

This year has been such a challenging one for all of our children and young people, we would like to thank everyone for responding so well to the closure of schools in March and supporting Hartlepool children and young people through lockdown. We would also like to place on record our thanks and admiration for all our schools and their staff who have done an amazing job in supporting their pupils and families throughout such a difficult time.

September has seen our schools re-opening and it has been wonderful to see our children and young people all returning to school full of energy, ambition and a readiness to learn. We do not under-estimate the impact the lockdown arrangements will have had on children and young people. We have worked hard with Hartlepool schools to make sure that the school environment is safe for their return and able to support pupils in both their learning and recovery. The impact of children and young people not being in school for such a long period of time, will undoubtedly be felt for many months and even years to come. For these reasons we are keen to do all we can to support our children and young people in Hartlepool to have good 2020/21 academic year and for it to be disrupted as little as possible.

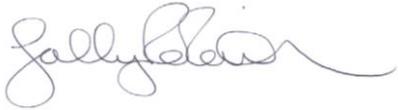
In recent days and weeks we have seen a rise in the number of positive COVID 19 cases in Hartlepool, however this is not coming from pupils being back in schools, but rather we are seeing a rise in cases in adults as lockdown restrictions have been lifted and people are returning to their former activities. If we are not careful, the virus will get a grip again on our community and that puts all of our residents at risk. For these reasons, we are writing to you today to ask for your support in helping our children and young people, and our Hartlepool community to be safe and well.

You will by now have seen the Government's 'Hands, Face, Space' campaign, following these simple guidelines will save lives in Hartlepool. The main symptoms of COVID are a high temperature, a new continuous cough and/or a loss or change in your sense of smell or taste. If you have any of these three symptoms, get a test and, if the test result is positive, work with the Test and Trace team who will contact you regarding your recent close contacts. If you do not have symptoms, please do not try to book a test, you could be taking a test away from someone who really needs it. If anyone in your family tests positive, everyone in the household must isolate for 14 days. This means, please do not send your child to school until the quarantine period has ended. This way we can be sure that no-one is accidentally spreading the virus and putting anyone else at risk.

The coming months will continue to be challenging ones and it is likely that some school pupils will have to quarantine if they come into contact with a person who has received a positive test result. The more we follow the rules, the less likely this is to happen. Your child's education is really important and we want all the children and young people in Hartlepool to have a happy healthy and safe time in school.

Please, take care, stay safe and protect the people you love.

Yours sincerely



**SALLY ROBINSON**  
Director



**CRAIG BLUNDRED**  
Acting Director of Public Health