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## To All Parents & Carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have written to you a number of times this term with updates and information but this time I simply want to say 'thank you'.

The past four weeks, since the start of term, have presented huge challenges for every one of us associated with our schools: children, parents and carers, teaching and support staff, Governors and Trustees and my colleague officers in the MAT. I have regular discussions with each of the Headteachers and the Trustees of St Benet's Trust to check all of our provision and how well it is working.

But it is you, parents and carers, whom I wish to reach out to now. My own two daughters have both been through school and university and are now in the world of work and I am proud that they too are working in education.

Though I am personally detached from the challenges of lockdown home-schooling as a parent, a number of my colleagues share with me regularly how very difficult it is to juggle this with their own work commitments. Of course, all of the challenges come on top of being a parent anyway.

Your households have been put under enormous pressure in a way that none of us have experienced before or predicted would ever happen. Last week I carried out a review of the remote-learning offered by each of our schools and was very impressed with the way in which the teachers and support staff have adapted their teaching to enable this to happen - they have done an amazing job. However, I am also aware that it is not a perfect solution for everyone and that on occasions children will struggle to understand or to keep motivated.

We appreciate the challenges that this presents for you in overseeing this work in your homes and understand that at times this can feel demoralising. Please do continue to share your concerns with your child's teacher as they will want to work with you in finding a way forward. At the end of the day, despite the pandemic, we all want the same for every one of the children in St Benet's schools - that they are safe, healthy and have every opportunity to succeed. There will be days in the current climate when the success seems to come in very small steps.

All of us in the Trust are absolutely committed to playing our part in making sure our colleagues in the health and social care services can work effectively for us all and we will continue to offer in-school support for all those who really need it. However, this approach must not become overloaded and must enable teachers to offer in-school support for those who need it and still support high quality remote learning for the majority of the children who are at home.



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Every one of us involved with the St Benet's family wants our schools to be filled again with the happy sounds of children learning and playing and this day will come. The Prime Minister's announcement yesterday suggests that in another 3 weeks' time we will have a much better idea as to when this will be. Until that time we must continue to pull together and accept that there will be good days and not so good days for every one of us.

With my appreciation and respect for everything that you are doing during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely,

**Richard Cranmer**  
**Chief Executive Officer**