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|  | Vicky Buchanan  ExecutiveDirectorofChildren’sSocialCareandEducation  Sefton Council  Bootle Town Hall  Oriel Road  Bootle  L20 7AE  Tel 0151 934 3128  [vicky.buchanan@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:vicky.buchanan@sefton.gov.uk)  Date: 4th December 2020  Our ref: 12 04 12 20 Friday HTs Letter |

Dear parents and carers

We are delighted to be able to write to you about the excellent attendance records that our children and young people have achieved this term. We know it has not been an easy time especially during lockdown and that many of you have been worried about sending your children to school.

We know that the safest place for our children and young people is in school so that they can continue to learn and catch up on the five months schooling they have missed. Our local schools are doing an amazing job supporting their pupils to catch up ensuring that they can learn from home when it is required.

It’s not an easy task for anyone including staff, parents and carers at home managing blended learning. The reports we get back show that so many of you are providing great support for your children when they have to remain at home.

All our schools are striving to provide the very best opportunities for the pupils in their care. We would ask that you remember that all schools are unique communities working in different ways and that blended learning techniques will not be the same across all settings.

With just two weeks until the Christmas break, we would like to remind you that it is important that your child attends school up to the last day of term. We appreciate your concerns about the Christmas break and the implications if your child is identified as one of the close contacts of someone who has tested positive, *however we would ask that you keep your children in school for the remainder of the term.*

The government guidelines are very clear on the expectation that children and young people attend school every day, right to the end of term and the guidance for parents and carers on attendance can be found on the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term#attendance>

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you once again for the tremendous support in ensuring your child attendance which is greatly appreciated by both Sefton Council and the schools.

We hope that you have a wonderful Christmas

 

**VICKY BUCHANAN TRICIA DAVIES**

**Executive Director of Children’s Interim Head of Education**

**Social Care and Education**