

16th December 2020

Dear families

I am writing to you at the end of what has been a very long, hard, stressful and unprecedented year for all of us. I can hardly believe it has been 9 months since we went into lockdown, the impact that has had on each and everyone one of us and in so many different ways.

I am sure you would like to join me in thanking all the staff at Dysart School who have worked tirelessly to ensure that we have been able to keep the school open – at no point during the pandemic was the school ever completely closed to all students.

Summer Term 2020	76% of Dysart Pupils Attended School	20% of Pupils in Schools Nationally
Autumn Term 2020	91% of Dysart Pupils Attended School	77% of Pupils in Schools Nationally

This goes to show how well the staff have supported our students and how confident you have all been in the school response to the pandemic. It certainly was a steep learning curve for us all and as we worked through this together, the Dysart Team became stronger.

I am really proud to be able to say that, as a school, we have an exceptional record of attendance for our staff and students. During the pandemic we have put in so many different measures across the school, from employing more staff, masks and PPE, class and corridor bubbles, to providing multiple eating areas around school to ensure staff bubbles do not mix. Whilst we had to close some bubbles in October, in reality we have had very few cases amongst staff and students and it is a testament to our staff that they have followed the guidance rigidly to ensure they do not mix, stay well and can remain in school to support each other and all our families. We are, without doubt, a hardworking and dedicated team we should be proud of.

I would like to further add that, during this time, we have still achieved so much with many fun activities in school and with Venus Class supporting those in need in the community with their shopping and delivery service. Please take a look at our newsletters and website for all the latest news.

<https://dysartschool.org/category/news/>

As we enter Tier 3, and as Christmas approaches, what should be a fun and joyous time is likely to bring its own pressures. I want to reassure you that the senior leadership team, and the staff as a whole, are always here for you. If you have any concerns or worries please do get in touch and we will do our best to help in any way we can.

It goes without saying that I wish you all, and our staff, a restful Christmas break and hope that 2021 is kinder to us all.

Yours sincerely



Leigh Edser
Principal

