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To All Parents/Carers
St Benet's MAT Academies & Schools

Dear St Benet's Parents/Carers,

I hope that during the school holiday period that you and your children have been able to enjoy some quality time together. I write to you today with a real sense of hope that this new academic year will feel very much more like the normality that we are all seeking.

As you know, being part of the St Benet's family of schools brings many benefits for your children and I am delighted to welcome St Mary's Church of England Junior Academy in Long Stratton as our newest member.

My colleagues and I have been working closely with our Headteachers during the holiday period to ensure that our children and staff are as safe as they can be at the start of term. On 17th August the Department for Education (DfE) published updated guidance: ‘What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges’.

A range of measures that we are familiar with will remain in place in September, in line with this revised DfE guidance. This will include a continuing stronger focus on washing hands and also ongoing ventilation of classrooms and other spaces. Your school will write to you with further information, if necessary, on any additional measures or changes. I have attached a very clear summary of the key points in the Covid Outbreak Contingency Plan document.

Whilst we start this new academic year with renewed hope, I am very conscious of the anxiety that you will be feeling, to differing degrees, about your child's return to school. Our Headteachers have worked diligently throughout the last year and continue to set the highest expectations and standards for their staff to ensure that our school communities are as safe as they can be.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Cranmer
Chief Executive Officer