



**THE HIGHFIELD
SCHOOL**

Headteacher – Mrs Lucy Miles



**FEARNHILL
SCHOOL**

Headteacher – Ms E Ellis BA, MA

1st October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to thank you again for your ongoing support as we have restarted face to face education this year.

You may have heard of, or even downloaded, the new NHS Track and Trace app designed for over 16s to use, with Bluetooth, to identify if you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Coronavirus. We would like to take this opportunity to clarify our schools' positions on the use of this application.

Firstly, this application is for use by persons over the age of 16 due to access to data and location information and we would encourage parents to ensure their children do not have this application on their devices at all unless over that age.

Whilst this application is a fantastic community resource to support the fight against COVID-19, the government, in their guidance to schools, have recognised the limitations and complications of such an application. In schools, where a 'no phone' policy is in operation, the guidance clearly states that "It is recommended that settings advise or require students to pause contact tracing whilst on the premises under these circumstances, to avoid the app misidentifying close contacts."

In both our schools, for e-safety reasons, mobile phones are not permitted for use by students unless they are part of learning in a lesson and supervised by a teacher. Therefore the application is not of use in school. We ask that phones continue to be switched off at all times in line with our school policies, and that the tracing function of the application is turned off. We have our own robust contact tracing systems that will be used should the need arise; systems that work effectively within the school setting and follow all government guidelines. Government guidance states that the application in schools "is not required for [the current physical contact tracing procedures] in schools to work."

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support in these unprecedented times.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Lucy Miles
Headteacher
The Highfield School

Ms Liz Ellis
Headteacher
Fearnhill School