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Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure a number of you are aware the National Education Union and Unison have written to Head Teachers informing them that their members have the right to refuse to attend the school setting to teach whole classes of children. Today I sadly received a letter from a number of teaching and support staff informing the Trust that *due to the current Tier 4 restrictions they do not feel it is safe or appropriate for them to teach whole classes of children.*

Due to this ongoing situation we can only open our school tomorrow for critical worker children and those classed as vulnerable who previously used the provision between March and June. If you have not accessed the critical worker / vulnerable provision previously, but believe you fall into this category, please contact the school, after 9am on Monday, to discuss your needs.

As a parent myself I fully appreciate how frustrating and difficult this will be for a number of you and how concerned you will be about your child's education. I have asked Mrs Baines to ensure learning for those children who are not in school is switched to online by lunch time of Monday and we will constantly review this situation whilst we are updated by the unions.

Sadly, all of this is beyond the control of myself and Mrs Baines. We have followed all of the advice from the DFE and updated our risk assessments for tier 4 however, we have to respect the communication we have received from concerned staff.

Once we have more clarity from the unions involved and the DFE I will write again to update you.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Rickeard".

Paul Rickeard
Chief Executive Officer
Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust