



**Oliver Burwood**

DNEAT Chief Executive Officer  
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Dear Parents and Carers,

**Half term in DNEAT academies for children of critical workers and vulnerable children**

Our position is that wherever possible children of critical workers and vulnerable children should be taking their holidays as usual during the upcoming half term (15-19 February 2021).

In relation to vulnerable children this reflects the usual situation at holiday time. If you are a parent of a vulnerable child, your academy may have procedures for checking in with you in holiday times and we would ask you to engage with these in the usual way.

For children of critical workers currently taking up a place in an academy, we will not be automatically offering a place for additional provision in the half term holiday. Anyone who feels it is essential that they receive child-care support during this period will need to proactively ask for it; your academy will let you know how to do this.

As this is a holiday period any provision put in place will be in the form of childcare rather than learning/lessons.

Our current priority for putting any provision in place is to support critical workers directly involved in NHS work at a time of high pressure. Frontline NHS staff who are required to work during half term, and who have no other access to childcare including child-care bubbles, would be an example of a family we would want our academies to support through child-care provision if requested.

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We are aware that additional information from the Department of Education on this issue may mean we need to plan differently but currently this is the Trust approach. Sharing our intentions with you now will allow our academies to plan the support and staff that they need to put in place. We are asking that any request for child-care provision is made to your academy no later than 29 January in the first instance (earlier if possible) but we do understand the need to be flexible due to the situation in the NHS in particular, so please engage with your academy if you are unsure whether you may need a place or not.

Thank you for your ongoing support with this issue.  
Yours sincerely,

Oliver Burwood  
*DNEAT Chief Executive Officer*