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Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to express my thanks to all our Renfrewshire children and young people, their parents and carers, for their continued patience and support throughout what has been another challenging year.

I have been truly inspired by the dedication and commitment shown by our children and young people in these difficult circumstances, and by the support from our wider school community including our schools and early learning staff.

As we come to the end of the year, we once again find ourselves in another period of uncertainty and I would like to assure you that we take all steps required to maintain as much of a normal learning experience for our children and young people as possible, whilst maintaining all COVID-19 safety measures for both the protection of our children and staff.

At the end of last week we received further guidance from the Scottish Government and we will continue to monitor this and any developments over the festive period and keep you updated, in particular ahead of the new school term as needed.

This time of year can sometimes be a difficult one for many. If you or your child needs any support, our school and early learning centre offices will be closed for the holidays but there is a wide range of resources still available. You can read more about these here at <https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-schools/learning-health-wellbeing> or visit www.parentclub.scot

I would urge everyone to take advantage of regular testing which helps us identify any positive cases and minimise the spread of the virus, particularly when the new Omicron variant is so highly transmissible. Regular testing is the best way to keep yourself, your friends and family safe over the festive period. Free test packs can be picked up from secondary schools or from your local pharmacy or ordered online to be delivered free to your door. <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

In the meantime, I would like to wish you all a good break and I hope you get some time with those you care about over the holidays and I look forward to seeing everyone back in the new year.

Yours sincerely

Steven Quinn
Director of Children's Services