

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your continuing support through this time. Also thank you for the kind messages we have received.

If you have decided to keep your child at home, this has been a great help. As you are aware the Government talk of flattening the curve and keeping a 2-metre distance to help stop the spread of this virus is extremely difficult to achieve in school. Particularly for those young people who require support for their personal hygiene. Some pupils need 2-1 and occasionally 3-1 support when being hoisted, this make it impossible to keep to the guidelines on social exclusion.

New guidance issued yesterday states:

*Those with an EHC plan should be risk-assessed by their school or college in consultation with the local authority (LA) and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. **Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.***

Therefore, if you can safely manage your child at home, I would urge you to do so. This not only reduces the risk of contracting the virus, it will also reduce the risk of spreading it too. Further to this, if you have chosen to keep your child off school, I am relying on you to continue with this until our school fully reopens.

As mentioned previously, I will be asking parents of pupils who remain in school to fill out a survey each Thursday in order for us to know which pupils we will be expecting the following week. **If you don't fill out the survey, I will assume you are not planning to send your child into school and therefore should keep your child at home.**

I also need to make you aware that if we have a fall in the amount of staff who can commit to working, we may need to reassess the situation and apply criteria to making decisions about which pupils can attend. Firstly, we would look at those pupils who have both parents deemed to be a Key Worker. There is a list that has been produced by the Government that I will refer to if that is the case. I hope that I will not need to go down this route and be able to continue to offer provision for all pupils whose parents have requested it.

From tomorrow, we will only be able to supply food at lunch for those pupils who are in receipt of Free School Meals for financial reasons, not for those who are receipt of Free School Meals due to their age. The food provided will be a sandwich as our supplier is no longer able to produce hot food. All other pupils must bring in their own food.

Yours faithfully



Lorraine Wilson

Headteacher

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