

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you know schools are officially closing from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March for an indefinite period.

In accordance with government advice, we will remain open to allow 'key workers' to carry out their role. At the moment, key workers are listed as: emergency service workers, including health staff, all first responders, essential delivery drivers, social workers, those who work in schools and childcare settings and are required to be in their schools. You must identify yourself if you are in this category and you have no other options for childcare, by ringing school immediately.

Schools will also remain open to the most vulnerable and this includes children with an EHCP, which is our pupils. We have contacted all parents and carers and a small group have indicated that they wish their child to attend school from Monday.

The purpose of closing schools is to reduce the opportunity for infection from the Coronavirus and therefore it is important the number of children and adults in school is kept to a minimum. Parents and carers must consider carefully if they have no other options for childcare. Children in homes who are self-isolating cannot attend school.

We will be operating with a skeleton staff as many staff are now absent from school. It must be made clear that any child who has arranged to return to school on Monday is fully compliant with the school rules. Any child who is not compliant with school rules will be excluded from school. We do not have capacity on the staff team to make alternative arrangements.

They must attend:

- In full school uniform
- Without any banned items such as energy drinks and smoking items
- With a packed lunch, unless on free school meals, where a packed lunch will be provided. Hot school meals will not be provided

If a child arrives at school and is not prepared in the right way, they will be sent home at cost to parents/carers.

As we do not have the usual staffing ratio in school, children will be in mixed group classes with children they are not normally with. They will be placed in rooms with an adequate 'social distance' between other children and staff and they will be completing work that has been set on google classroom the same as children working at home. There is currently no expectation that schools are providing the usual education – we are now providing childcare. We must also insist that any child who is coming into school for childcare does not socialise outside of school hours. It is the parent/carer responsibility to keep them inside, away from others to reduce the risk of infection.

Parents and carers must not send their child in without prior arrangement, as we will not have the right amount of staff in school.

At present, we are working with transport to find out the availability of taxis etc. Please note the school minibuses will not be operating at this time.

Any other arrangements will be communicated as they are decided.

I have worked very hard to keep the children and their families safe and to protect the staff and their families too. I am worried that I am now putting members of our community at risk

I fully support the Government decision to ask schools to provide childcare for the children of key workers and the most vulnerable children who have no alternative but to be looked after in school.

Regards

Claire Crowley