



20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Friday 20th March: Coronavirus update.

In addition to the information that went out via Dojo this morning, we would just like to re-iterate that we will continue to provide care for a limited number of children. This has been set by the government as a maximum of 20% - around 80 of our children. It goes without saying that fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in the wider society.

This may require us to prioritise which pupils receive an offer, according to greatest need. Greater priority will be given to families where both parents are key workers or a single-parent key worker. A list of key workers is available on the government website.

This is not about 'entitlement' it is about doing the right thing for the greater good of society; accommodating the greatest need and limiting social interaction and the spread of the virus - allowing school to stay open for those who need it the most.

If you have asked for provision and on reflection now feel that you can use alternative care please contact the school immediately. A list has now been drawn up of keyworker requirements and those families will be contacted later today to confirm whether the school can provide them with support. Unfortunately we will only be able to accommodate those families who have informed us of their needs.

What will provision look like in school?

This is a very different type of provision than schools usually provide; for these pupils, it will be about care, not education. This is about keeping children safe and allowing key workers to go to work and care for the sick, or to keep food supply chains moving.

Can the school still decide they need to close?

It remains the case that if we do not have enough staff to care for pupils safely (even based on the new 'reduced provision' approach) then, subject to a risk assessment and consultation with the chair of governors, a full or partial closure may be necessary. We will review the situation daily.

Please keep your children at home if possible.

Planning and timetabling.

As the situation develops the school will be taking a four- phase approach:

1. Monday 23rd March
2. The next two weeks
3. Easter holidays
4. The summer term.

Schools have been put in a very difficult position by this announcement. There is a very real sense of 'managing the best we can' with the staff available.

The key message is that schools are closed, but we are doing what we can to support our families, given these unprecedented circumstances.

Thank you to all who are working hard to support our community and the most vulnerable in our society; especially those in the NHS.

