



29 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

This period has been challenging for everyone and we hope you are all adjusting well in these difficult circumstances.

Our amazing staff have been working hard to make sure we can continue to provide education for your children. As a reminder, our current approach is:

- Work is being set and is available on the school website. The staff have also posted life skills videos with instructions for the pupils to follow/try at home. We are asking that pupils try to engage in some learning and we understand that for each child this will be different.
- Our students who attend college settings have been provided with work which is updated by the college. At present the college sites all remain closed and we await an update from them. In these unprecedented times it is impossible to predict what will happen next.
- We are here to help, if you are stuck or struggling please let us know

We hope you can understand that we cannot deliver the same sort of education we do when the school is fully open, but your children will not miss out by not being in school at the moment. We have tried to keep everyone's workloads – both pupils learning at home and those in school – comparable, appropriate and realistic during this turbulent period.

Please do not worry about your children getting behind with learning. Everyone's in the same boat, and when things get back to normal we will make sure we get everyone back on track.

Last night our Area Education Officer wrote to the school with further details of the laptop scheme. The information indicates that the following pupils may qualify:

- Pupils who have a social worker
- Pupils who are looked after (Children in Care)
- Year 10 pupils who receive Free School Meals



The letter confirms that the local authority will have information about the first two groups of pupils and have asked the school to confirm the names of pupils who are in Year 10 and receive Free School Meals. This information has been sent today and we await an update. We have no information about the timescale and when we may receive the equipment or how it will reach the pupils. We will update you as soon as we have any more information.

The school has tried to buy some additional laptops, but due to demand we have been unable to source any, but our IT support will continue to monitor the availability. We now have a list of pupils for whom access to a computer/laptop is an issue and a barrier to their learning so we will be issuing equipment to those pupils this week. This will be for pupils who will not receive equipment from the government scheme and these will need to be returned to school when we re-open.

I like most of you have been watching the news and awaiting updates regarding schools and re-opening. The leadership team are working on a number of scenarios but until we have Government advice, we cannot make any firm decisions or give you a date when we will re-open. It is likely that I will not know in advance of the Government's announcement, but to reassure you, we will be ready and the staff and I are looking forward to the time we can welcome pupils back to school and College safely.

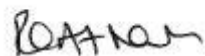
Our virtual meetings with pupils have been very positive and the feedback from parents and pupils has also been positive. I think it is lovely for the pupils to see some of their classmates and the staff. Thank you for supporting us with the safe management of these online sessions.

The school remains open to children of key workers. Government advice remains that we should all stay at home. I know it is difficult but we are at such a fragile point in the lockdown and I ask for your continued support at this time. Social distancing in our setting is proving a challenge and I just want to keep the pupils and staff safe. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting the school. The schools will remain closed over the bank holiday weekend and the half term holiday.

Finally, we have put together a video for the pupils from the staff. The link to the video is on the school website. I hope you enjoy and it brings a smile!

Thank you for your continued support.

Take care and keep safe.



Renukah Atwell
Headteacher