

19 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm sure you will have heard that from tomorrow afternoon all schools in England will shut their gates to all but the most vulnerable children (children who have a social worker and/or an Education, Health and Care Plan) and to the children of essential key workers who, without school provision, would be unable to attend work.

This is completely new ground for all of us and, at the time of writing, we have no more information than the rest of the public. What I can reassure you of, is that we are doing everything in our power to be an essential part of the global effort to tackle COVID-19.

There are some very important things you need to know:

- **Do not send your child into school from Monday onwards unless you are one of the few families who will require the provision for key workers and vulnerable children.**
- **We do not know when schools will re-open.** However, as any information is released to us, we will endeavour to pass it on to you as swiftly as possible.
- **What will open on Monday 23rd March will be a very different service.** It will be a safe place for children to be cared for and a little different to a normal school day.
- **For the pupils attending school we can assure you that our schools will be clean and safe.** If staff become unwell or facilities require deep-cleaning, we can draw on our wide pool of staff and premises from our other local schools. We will do our best to be here for those who need us most.
- **We are not on holiday.** Every single one of our members of staff will still be making a positive contribution to society. Teachers will be providing work to pupils to continue their learning. We ask you as parents and carers to help support your child's learning by working with us and making the most of the resources we can provide. Where the community needs us, and we have the resources and expertise to contribute, we will endeavour to help.
- **There will be support if your child usually receives free school meals.** We will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.
- In due course information will be made available to allow students working at home to access virtual classrooms using google classroom. This will allow them to access lesson resources from subject teachers.

The government guidance that details those families eligible to attend school from Monday is due to be published by the government today. As soon as it is available, I will send this to you. If you feel that you will be in this group then please contact the school office to give us an idea of numbers. The easiest way would be to email Mrs Moore sarah.moore@ruralenterpriseacademy.com or, alternatively, call 01785 333360.

Yours sincerely,

Jon Attwood

Vice-Principal