



Thursday, 26 March 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

As you will be aware, schools were instructed to close to everyone, except children of key workers and vulnerable children, from Monday 23rd March 2020. The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. The 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 wider society. That is why the Government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who **absolutely** need to attend.

We have been in regular contact with families who are keyworkers and those who are identified as vulnerable (with an allocated social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans) to determine whether a place at school is required and to make provision for these students. Government advice is that many parents who work within critical sectors should try and ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. We are pleased that families are heeding this advice and only leaving home and using this provision where absolutely necessary.

Following further Government announcements this week the numbers accessing the provision at Hazel Wood High School have reduced and therefore we will **close** tomorrow as no pupils are expected to attend. We will contact those families of vulnerable children, and children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response to determine whether provision is necessary for next week. **Should there be no need to open we will make the decision to close school, to enable staff to remain at home as per Government advice.**

The health and safety of our pupils, staff and families remain a key consideration. Please ensure you continue to follow the updated Government guidelines regarding self isolation should you, or any member of your family show symptoms of the COVID19. Please also follow the restrictions that are now in place:

Stay at home

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (where this absolutely cannot be done from home)
- Stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

We have launched a daily newsletter, linked in our Important Announcement area, on the website. Please see this for any announcements, updates and ideas for your family.

We thank you for your continued support as we work through this challenging situation together.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Greenhalgh'.

Mr P Greenhalgh
Headteacher

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