

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Staff,

We thought that it would be useful to provide you with an update over the weekend, so as to reassure you regarding ongoing developments and our evolving plans, as well as to help ensure regular, transparent communication.

- Thank you to all parents and carers that have completed the 'Google Form' that we sent out on Friday. At the time of writing, we have had 298 responses. Thank you also for the many follow up emails we have also received, via the School office, providing further supporting information. If you have not already done so, please can you take the time to complete this form. It is important for us to have accurate information to be able to plan how we can keep children and adults as safe as we are able to. Learning approach leads will also be attempting to make contact with families that have not yet completed this form, on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- Thank you to all of the staff that completed a similar exercise regarding their availability to work. *We understand that some of you have unfortunately not been recognised as 'key workers' at your own children's Schools; we have informed the Local Authority of this matter and they have issued a communication to all schools, to specifically remind them that all school staff are considered as key workers. If you continue to experience any difficulties, please let us know.*
- Collectively, the information that you have provided as parents / carers and staff will help us to plan our next steps.
- So far, 82 parents have indicated that they would like their child to continue to come into School when we re-open on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- **Please can we emphasise however, that 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. School have been asked to remain open by the Government, only for those children who absolutely need to attend.**
- Over the next two days we will be giving careful consideration as to how these pupils could potentially be grouped together, and the staffing implications (e.g. capacity, and having staff in place with the right training for, and specialist knowledge of, pupils). Ensuring that we are able to keep all pupils and adults safe will be a guiding principle. If we feel that we are unable to do so, we ask that you respect the incredibly difficult decisions we are constantly having to make.
- We continue to liaise closely with the Local Authority regarding the significant challenges we face.
- We will endeavour to liaise directly with all of the families that have responded to the 'Google Form', by midday on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, to confirm our decisions regarding what provision we are able to establish.
- In light of our decisions, we will also be working closely with KCC transport and our catering provider, within the same timescales, regarding the transport / school meal arrangements that will need to be put in place upon our re-opening on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

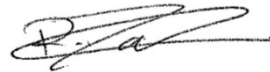
- The Lead Nurse for 'Children's Special schools and Short Break Services' has assured us that, whilst we remain open, we will continue to have paediatric nurses on site (subject to their own health and subsequent availability).
- In partnership with our friends at 'Strood Cabs' we are exploring a range of ways in which we can distribute free School meals as well as support other vulnerable groups in our communities. We are immensely thankful for the support they have pledged.
- We are working with Recognition Express on exciting clothing designs for our front line staff – to consolidate our sense of identity and belonging during these extremely challenging times.
- We are also working to address the challenge of ensuring that staff have access to adequate personal protective equipment (PPE), particularly when supporting the personal care needs of our pupils, and when needing to supervise pupils displaying symptoms of coronavirus. Sadly, we understand that there is a National shortage of this equipment; news reports indicate that all available resources are being sent to hospitals, with a 10/15 day waiting list for social care etc settings.

Finally, we would like to emphasise how very appreciative we are of the kind words of support and generous gifts that we have received from you, coupled with the many offers of help that have flooded in. During these adverse times it is very evident that our feeling of community and 'togetherness' could not be stronger.

#### Kind regards



**Tim Williams**  
(Headteacher, Boughton Lane)



**Richard Dalton**  
(Headteacher, Satellite Provision)

