

23rd April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Staff,

Updates

- This week we have received an increasing number of requests from families, asking for School based provision. We fully understand how difficult things are right now. Unfortunately, given our limited staffing capacity we are unable to prioritise everyone, and we are having to make some very difficult decisions, in collaboration with other professionals e.g. Social Services and the Local Authority. We are also very mindful of the fact that, wherever possible and safe to do so, children should still continue to stay at home as there is an increased risk of spreading the infection within the School setting. Scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 remains very clear - if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. The School also strongly agrees with the view of Professor Adam Boddison (Chief Executive – The National Association For Special Educational Needs) that the decision for any pupil to be in School should be the last resort rather than the default option.
- We currently have a small number of pupils that need to be in School and this means that we can manage risk; if the number of pupils on site were to increase, the risk to pupils and staff of catching and spreading Covid 19 would increase. Please respect our decisions – we will always try to do our very best with the limited resources available to us, and the challenges we face right now. We do not want to come into conflict with you.
- We will be soon be launching our series of ‘Tim V Richard Challenges’ – please start sharing possible challenge ideas with Alex, so that these can get started.
- We hope you have seen the daily ‘TikTok’ dances that our on-site teams have been posting on our Facebook page – these are definitely becoming more complex and competitive!
- Please keep sending in videos and photos to Alex so that she can share them on Facebook – they are such a good way of us remaining ‘connected’ during these very challenging times.
- We are currently putting together a ‘resource making’ team of staff, to help produce a range of resources that families might urgently need right now e.g. symbols, schedules, work packs etc. Please could any staff that are interested in being part of this team get in touch with Sarah Eiffert. Families – watch this space for further details.
- Next week we will be introducing a weekly bulletin that is designed to give our families and staff teams a broader picture of what is happening across the organisation. It will celebrate the huge efforts that people are putting in to keep all of our pupils busy, safe, connected and healthy. This bulletin will consist of 4 parts:
 - Our week in numbers: a quick and easy way of sharing information about things that have happened
 - A spotlight story to highlight the experiences of different people working with us
 - Things you might have missed: this will highlight any key messages from the week
 - Special thanks: to show our gratitude to volunteers, other partner organisations, staff groups etc

Take care all.

Kind regards

The Senior Leadership Team

