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Headteacher: Brett Stevenson

19th March 2020

Dear Parents,

Partial School Closure Guidance

I would firstly like to thank you all for your support and patience whilst we have waited for the guidance to be released by the Department for Education. It was released early this morning

As you will be aware, from today the schools will be partially closed. We have no information as to how long this will be, but we will do our best to keep you updated via our website, texts and emails.

It is clear that the government is trying to limit the spread of the Coronavirus by minimising the amount of contact between children, teachers and their families, whilst also supporting key workers in providing emergency services and enabling us to have access to food.

The guidance makes clear the following important points:

- If children *can* stay safely at home, *they should*, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.
- 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*.
- 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.
- If it is *at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be*.

Key Groups who can attend school

Two key groups will be able to access school provision from Monday – Key workers (see definition below) and those children who have Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) or who are being supported by a social worker.

Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.** Our offer to parents and carers means there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.

The following link will take you to the government definition for key groups.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

I fully appreciate that this has all come at the last minute. I would ask you to be mindful of the fact that this has also challenged us as schools and remember that we are doing our very best to support not only parents of the Federation but our wider local community.

Yesterday I sent a letter asking you to contact me if you are a key worker, and to tell us when you wish your child to be in school. I will contact you separately by text to confirm this. There will also be a letter just for the parents of those children, posted on the website.

The situation surrounding Free School Meals is at the time of writing still unclear. Once I have an idea of the provision, I will contact you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your understanding and your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Stevenson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brett Stevenson

Headteacher