

20<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Ms J Palmer BSc, MA, MA, NPQH  
Principal

Dear Parent and Carers

I am writing again with a further update in regard to school and the current pandemic.

Meadowfield School is following the government advice of 19 March 2020 entitled 'Guidance for schools, childcare providers, colleges and local authorities in England on maintain educational provision'.

This guidance states, in part:

*'...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. 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 who absolutely need to attend'.*

The guidance goes on to explain that schools should continue to provide care for a limited number of children:

- Those whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response (Key Workers)
- Those families who may require support with welfare needs

You may have read guidance that states children with EHC plans should also be attending school. Unfortunately, this is impossible for Meadowfield School as all pupils have a EHCP and we cannot accommodate everyone due to high levels of staff absence in relation to the virus. We must also be mindful that many of our pupils are medically and physically vulnerable therefore will be safest in the home environment.

This afternoon staff have been contacting each and every family to explain that from Monday, and for the foreseeable future, we will only be open for children of key workers and those with particular welfare needs.

We have been asked to play a different and vital role in the national effort in tackling Coronavirus. From Monday, schools are being asked to provide care, therefore this will be our primary role. As far as possible we will continue to deliver a broad curriculum so that our pupil's lives are as settled and familiar as possible, but again our main role will be to ensure pupils coming into school are looked after. We will be making temporary changes to class structures and staffing arrangements to ensure that we can provide a safe and appropriate provision. If staffing levels fall below a safe ratio, then we would need to consider school closure.

The government has also announced that all formal examinations due this summer will be cancelled. We will be able to clarify what this means over the coming weeks.

We will continue to review our provision in line with the latest government guidelines. We take our duty of care extremely seriously and every decision we take will be with the very best interest of our pupils in mind.

Continued./...

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and understanding as we navigate this constantly changing and developing situation. Please be assured that we will endeavour to keep you updated as we receive new information.

Yours faithfully



Jill M. Palmer  
Principal  
Meadowfield School