3rd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We write to update all parents/carers on the school and the adjustments that have been made following the government's direction around schools and COVID-19.

Firstly, we would to thank all of you for your ongoing support, communication and understanding. It is an anxious time for all and uncertainty is a difficult prospect to face as a community. As a school, we endeavour to continue to provide support through developing remote learning support packages and continuing to engage with social care to ensure everyone is getting the support they need.

Currently, the school remains partly open but only to those who are absolutely unable to remain at home. This is due to the directive to support critical workers and vulnerable students. However, the key message remains to **stay at home unless absolutely necessary**.

Whilst students are at home, we will continue to engage and educate them with your support. Reading every day is fun, will prevent any boredom setting in, and is a lovely way to spend time together. Doing homework activities with your child is also a great way to re-enforce skills as well as keep you updated with what your child has been learning in class this term.

So far, work packs have gone home and key workers have been identified to communicate with, and support, families. Each pack should include:

- 'Staying at Home' social story
- 'My Working at Home' calendar
- Handwashing step-by-step visual aids
- Leisure and self-occupancy suggestions handout
- 'Please May I have' communication chart
- 'Snack and Mealtimes' communication chart
- Makaton signs chart
- Tension and release relaxation techniques visuals
- 1 box of pens
- 1 pad of paper
- Sensory resource
- Individualised Homework curriculum booklet explaining Homework learning activities such as:
    - Homework sheets for English Literacy and Maths Numeracy and other Curriculum activity sheets your child shows a particular interest in at school
    - Websites and apps (also on our school's website) to support your child with self-occupancy at home
- A Reading Record to share with your child to celebrate all the books read at home

In addition to reading and educational activities, **our Transdisciplinary Team - Occupational and Speech and Language therapist and Positive Behaviour**

Coordinators - will continue to liaise and send sensory and communication homework regularly alongside work from teachers.

After the Easter break, teachers will have further expectations around supporting and educating our children and young people. We are looking at programs that will enrich and further the remote learning experience but in the meantime, teachers will aim to:

- **Check in daily or every other day via email or telephone to explore engagement, learning, behaviour and general wellbeing**. A log will be kept and any concerns or requests for additional resources, work or support should be shared so that we can take the appropriate steps
- **Update and adapt work packs** (these are likely to be shared by email where possible)
- **Share online resources appropriate to each student and their learning**

Above all else, safeguarding is the absolute priority and our designated safeguarding leads remain available and ready to support should there be a concern about wellbeing or the safety of the children and young people we work with. You can access advice and more information on the government website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers

Again, thank you for your support, communication and understanding. We hope this is useful and will continue to update all information as we are updated.

Yours sincerely,

pp Richard McCabe
MANAGER, FEU

pp Thea Smit
LEAD DESIGNATED TEACHER