Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardians

I would like to try to offer some clarity around our position as a school from Monday 23rd March. As you are aware schools in England will largely be closed but will continue to offer some provision for pupils with an EHCP plan and those whose parents are classed as key workers. The expectation for special schools is that we remain open and continue to offer care wherever possible.

The government are asking that all children who can be safely cared for at home should be kept at home. A number of parents have made the decision to keep their child away from school due to their vulnerability and if you choose to do this the absence will of course be authorised.

The provision we can offer will not be the same as a normal school day. We are running on a skeleton staff and will have to make changes to the timetable and look carefully at what activities we can provide. At the moment we can offer school meals but this may change if the kitchen staffing reduces. As always the welfare and safety of the pupils is our first concern. We have been advised by the local authority to carry out a daily risk assessment and to consider pupil/staff ratios and the number of staff trained for specific care needs. If it is felt that we cannot operate safely then we will have to close until staffing levels can be restored. If that decision is made then the pupils will be sent home.

As a senior leadership team we would value having some idea of the number of families who may take up this offer next week. Please could you contact school to let us know as soon as possible then we can start to plan accordingly.

For students who use the residence the situation is very much the same. At the moment we are continuing to staff the provision but this could change if staff become sick or have to self- isolate with family members.

These continue to be very difficult times for all of us and I ask that you continue to support us in these preventative measures. Kings Mill staff are doing their utmost to support families. I am in touch with other schools that have already had to make some quite tough decisions based on staffing levels and I have been proud of the dedication shown by our staff.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact school for further clarification.



Gail Lawton

Headteacher