Tuesday 24th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardians

Obviously last night the Government announced unprecedented measures in order to limit the spread of COVID19.The government are asking that all children who can be safely cared for at home should be kept at home. More parents have now made the decision to keep their child away from school due to their vulnerability and we appreciate those who have had to make difficult decisions.

 The latest guidance around vulnerable pupils is as follows:

‘Those with an EHC plan should be risk-assessed by their school or college in consultation with the local authority (LA) and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.’

Bearing in mind that everyone is being asked to stay at home unless travel is absolutely essential we respectfully ask that you consider the above statement. We are now running on a skeleton staff and are not being visited by our therapists, nurse or other NHS colleagues.

If you do fall into the Key Worker category we will continue to make provision. However, if this is not full time provision or there is an alternative to your child travelling to and from school, we respectfully ask you to consider this as an option. I emphasise again, we are not operating a normal school day so routines cannot be maintained. We are making constant changes to the school day and we are becoming very restricted in the activities we can offer as we are now not allowed to access the community. We are continuing to 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.

After tonight we are unable to safely staff the Residence so there will be no overnight short breaks until further notice. Steve Miller Head of Care and Senior Care Officers will be available to speak on the phone if advice is needed.

These continue to be very difficult and worrying times for us all and I ask that you continue to support us in these preventative measures. Kings Mill staff are doing their utmost to support families but are also becoming increasingly worried about their own infection risk as they travel to and from work and especially after the latest government guidance. In spite of this the team continue to come into school and I am proud of their dedication.

Please do help us by considering carefully the options available to you.

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



Gail Lawton

Headteacher