

19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you following yesterday's events and our plans going forward. For the vast majority of pupils, school finishes on Friday and we have already prepared online and paper-based work and resources that will be sent home today. We will continue to provide updates and upload more work onto the website.

We stand ready to respond to the challenge set yesterday to play our part in supporting the response to Covid-19 by Government and in this regard, we need a rapid response from specific families today by 6pm.

As you know, the Government has asked schools to put emergency provision in place for certain groups of young people where no alternative childcare arrangements can be made. We anticipate this will include the following groups of pupils and we will update you as soon as we have clarity from the Cabinet Office:

- Those children where both parents/carers work in the NHS, Police, fire and ambulance service, armed forces, social care, teachers or food delivery drivers.
- Those children with EHCPs

In order that we can assess our ability to put these emergency arrangements in place, we need an urgent response from any parents that think they may be eligible and would want to access the offer as they have no alternative childcare. We think, at this stage, this will be between 8.30am and 3.30pm, weekdays.

I will write specifically with further details about the offer once we have a sense of the number of pupils this may involve. I must make it explicitly clear that this will be **emergency childcare** only and will not involve normal teaching. Staff able to support will be aware of pupil's EHCP needs but there will be no individual 1-2-1 support for obvious reasons. All other pupils should heed government advice and stay at home.

If you wish to register an interest in your child/ren attending this provision, you must email:

schoolclosure@dps.swecet.org

by 6pm today and include:

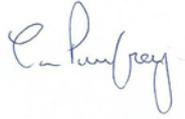
- Parent/carers name
- Your child's/children/s name/s
- Your employer and the exact nature of your work eg Basildon NHS Trust – Paediatric nurse or Tesco – delivery driver or simply state EHCP

For those parents with children able to access Free School Meals, the Trust Finance Office is making arrangements for supermarket vouchers to cover the next two weeks until there is clarity about the 'National voucher scheme'. You will be sent these directly and should not attend school.

We recognise that the volume of information and pace of the evolving picture may feel overwhelming, but please be assured that we will provide updates and further clarity as we receive it. Given the extraordinary arrangements we are putting in place, please avoid contacting the school office unless in an emergency.

Thank you all for your continued support at a challenging time for us all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Pumfrey'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a long, sweeping tail.

Ms C Pumfrey
Executive Head Teacher