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Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start this letter by again thanking the vast majority of our parents for being so patient and understanding of our critical situation at present. We know and understand how difficult things are for you all as you try to manage the unknown and cope with all this uncertainty. Please trust that as a school we are working as fast as we can to decipher what our continued and changed provision will look like next week.

Thank you to all of those parents and carers who have responded swiftly to our recent survey regarding provision eligibility, we know it was not an easy task to do while you are working.

For those pupils who are attending school next week on account of their parent or carers role as a key worker, we ask that you provide evidence to the school office on Monday so we can confirm to the local authority that your roles are critical to our nations Covid19 response.

If you have indicated that your children are coming to school on Monday, please assume that this is the case unless you hear directly from the school. I have been and will continue to speak to those parents where there is contention about the necessity for provision. Please do not think that we are being deliberately difficult or reluctant in our provision offers at this time. We are having to strike a fine balance between ensuring our school remains able to function on our limited available staff and ensuring those parents who are key to the Covid19 response are not hindered in their efforts. In an ideal world, we would love nothing more than to remain open for all parents who wish to send their pupils to school but we have to follow government direction regarding social distancing and we have to ensure our pupil:staff ratios are safe.

At Rackham we will continue to do all that we can to support our pupils, families and communities during this difficult time. We would like to say a huge thank you on behalf of the whole school community to everyone working in our NHS. In whatever capacity, we are thankful to you all. You have never been needed more than you are at present and we will do everything we can to support you in your efforts.

I would like to note how hugely proud I am of all the staff and pupils at Rackham for dealing with the last week so incredibly. Our pupils have been amazing and have demonstrated resilience, love and kindness in the bucketload. Today will not have been easy for anyone, but we remain positive and hope to have the Rackham family in its entirety return to the school as soon as the situation allows. Certainly in terms of our year 6 pupils, we will ensure that when it is safe to do so, they will experience a 'last day' of primary school properly. This is a crucial rite of passage that cannot be ignored even in these difficult times. In the meantime, Rackham staff have been and will continue to communicate with pupils and parents regularly, supporting them both academically and pastorally.

Please be mindful that Rackham is quite unique at present due to a necessity for several staff members to self isolate. It is important for all of our community to recognise that all our staff will still be working but in an entirely new role and for an entirely new purpose.

All of our pupils and their families are in our thoughts at this difficult time. As a community I feel certain we will pull through this.

