

30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

This letter follows the Government action taken on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 to restrict all nonessential travel of action and the decision taken on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to close all early years' settings, schools and colleges. Both decisions have been taken as part of the Government's response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency. This is a direct intervention to reduce the spread of the disease and to prevent unnecessary deaths. The Government has directed schools to remain open to provide support to vulnerable children and their families and for people identified as critical to managing the outbreak of the virus.

It is clear that school closures are critical to reduce the spread of the virus to a level the NHS can cope with. This is essential to save lives. If a substantial number of children continue to attend school this will affect the management of the pandemic and could result in increased deaths. The Government have also stated that all non-essential travel must be stopped.

#### **Children of Critical Workers**

If you have been deemed a critical worker, and notified the school, then we have been in touch directly. If you are on the critical worker list and have not yet notified us, please do as soon as possible if your children cannot remain at home - please only use the offer of provision when it is crucial for you to undertake your critical role.

#### **Children with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) or a Social Worker**

The Government has said that if your child has an EHCP and/or an allocated Social Worker and **it is not possible to safely keep them at home**, they may attend school, college or early years setting. Tutors and key-workers have been keeping in touch, and none have been informed that your child is not safe at home, but if circumstances change please let the school know. We have carried out risk assessments for all our children, and are currently unaware of any that would be safer in school.

On our website there is a variety of both academic activities and on-line mental health and wellbeing support. Please have a look, and encourage your children to try some of the activities, but please also don't worry if they don't want to. This is a very unsettling time for them, and for you and your families, so please keep each other safe and we can carry on their learning once they are back in school.

If you need to get in touch with us please use the [admin@ramsdenhall.org.uk](mailto:admin@ramsdenhall.org.uk) mailbox, and we'll make sure the correct person contacts you. Please also encourage your children to use this if they need to contact a particular member of staff.

If there is anything else we can do to help please let us know, none of us are able to go into school until it has been deep cleaned, and we are following government advice and working from home, but if there is any other support we can give please let us know.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Emma Baker  
Headteacher