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19th March 2020

Update relating to COVID-19
REPLY NEEDED FROM PARENTS IDENTIFIED IN THIS LETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you following yesterday's announcements by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Education (Gavin Williamson). We are in uncharted territory and the landscape is changing significantly on a daily basis. I am sure parents/carers will appreciate the Trust's decision is always child and family centered so we are trying to offer the best provision to safeguard everyone.

The Prime Minister has asked schools to seek to provide a safe and secure place during the day for **children of key workers and children with an EHCP or an allocated social worker**. In the context of a special school this would mean staying open for 100% of our children. We are concerned that this does not support the social distancing the government are strongly recommending and potentially causes a health and safety risk due to a depletion of staff numbers. Our primary aim is to safeguard your children and our staff and we do recognize, that our families will benefit from some quality care respite that the school can provide. Our plans to deliver this care will be fair and equitable whilst prioritizing support for the children of key workers. We will be confirming the details of this offer tomorrow.

We have not been offered a definitive list of key workers yet, but we have been told this will be made clear at some stage today. Once this list is made available, we will share it with you. Our understanding at this stage is that key worker childcare should be made available where there is no alternative childcare support in the household.

Last night, schools received initial guidance via email as to who is defined as a key worker. Please could you take a moment to consider whether you would identify yourself as a key worker. If you do, and you are unable to make alternative childcare arrangements could you kindly complete the attached form and return **by 10.30 am on Friday 20 March**, to aid us in preparing a plan for our school. It is important to note that we are trying to minimise this number to support the manageability of these arrangements and prevent further spread of infection. **We would ask that requests for key worker supervision are only made where all other options have been considered.**

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In terms of our amazing staff, I want to publicly thank them for their positive approach to this unprecedented situation. They have continued to provide outstanding education and care for your children and will continue to do so, for the duration of the current crisis.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L A Parrish (Headteacher)

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