

24th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers.

With so much change in a short space, I wanted to write to update you with how the school will be operating during the closure.

Parents who qualify for the childcare as being Critical to Covid-19 Workers have all been informed and we are working with them. The government advice remains that schools are closed to ensure children are kept at home.

Over the last week, we have prepared work to offer children on line learning. In order to manage expectations, we are looking at our provision in various phases, the first of which is over the two weeks up until the Easter holidays.

Whilst some work has initially been made available on paper, we are not able to continue this on a large scale. We are unable to open reception and have no people to distribute or print on a large scale. We appreciate that it may be easier than online, but with the number of students with their own devices (phones, tablets laptops) we need to work through the SMHW app/website.

I am also aware of national problems with internet access at certain times of the day. This is why our approach, of managing your own times and own expectations, is vital. Please do not worry if things do not work at a particular time, as we know these testing times will cause there to be more important things for families to focus on.

I have attached a breakdown of how we recommend for students to approach online learning, which I hope you will find useful. Having tried to balance my own children's learning with working, there are many, many challenges.

There are some key things we need to share:

- Please do not compare our provision to other schools.
- Do not expect students to learn vast quantities of new material. They won't.
- There is a need for negotiation at home about how it will all work.
- Learning is not just about school. Any learning that sparks enthusiasm or interest is excellent.

If in any doubt about what to do, please ask your child to read. When they have read, ask them what it was about and engage with them. Ask them questions. If children return to school having read more, they will be in a great position to learn.

Our provision will develop over time, as we become more skilled at virtual schooling. We have prepared resources to manage a temporary interruption to schools, but will need to consider our approach as times go on.

The attached sheet can be shared with your child and gives an overview of our approach.

Thank you so much for the kind messages, understanding and patience during such a difficult time.

Yours sincerely,



Ray Baker
Headteacher