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Update 4

20.03.2020

Dear parents, carers, families and staff

I hope you are all well. Thank you to those families, including our staff, who have emailed or phoned me regarding the most recent information which the government published this morning, Friday 20th March.

To start with, may I ask you to consider the following statement made today:

...the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. Guidance for schools, childcare providers, colleges and local authorities in England on maintaining education provision, 20th March 2020.

This is in addition to the statement with regard to social distancing:

We are advising those who are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures. Guidance on social distancing, 20th March 2020

- I am therefore going to plan, in association with our governing board, an offer for childcare at Hebden Green which takes into account the Public Health England and Department for Education Recommendations
- The plan will make available appropriate child care in our school for those who need it most
- The plan will make appropriate staffing arrangements for our workforce, many who are also parents with young children
- I will enact the plan using a decision tree matrix which I will share with you. This matrix will allow decisions around the child care offer to be clear, fair and transparent to our whole school community. It will also allow decisions around staffing to be fair, clear and transparent to our staff team

Further bespoke guidance regarding vulnerable people will be provided by the NHS next week, which may impact on the decision tree matrix. As a consequence, I do not want to publish a child care offer for our pupils until the NHS have updated their guidance for our vulnerable people.

It is important for you to know that our on-site health provision will not be running in the usual way.

Mat Southall, paediatric therapies and special needs nursing service manager, has informed me "It is highly likely that health services will not be able to operate as normal in school during this time. There is potential that all of our health services will be called upon to assist in other areas".

It is also important to note that advice is being updated and amended each day. We are all learning this new and updated information together.

Next Steps:

Communication for families and staff

- You will have a phone call from your pastoral teacher on Monday. If you are not able to take a phone call they will leave you a voice mail. They are looking forward to hearing how your off-site learning is going and will be able to direct you to resources specific to your child.
- Staff, you will have a call from your line manager on Monday. We are really missing you all and hope you are well.
- We have set up a new Facebook page. The page is called Hebden Green Community Distance Learning and Wellbeing Group. This is a closed group. You will be asked to answer some questions and comply with a code of conduct, then allowed to join the group. The group has been set up as an interactive platform to allow parents, carers, pupils and staff to interact in a safe and supportive space.

Distance Learning

Our new Distance Learning resources for next week will be online on Monday morning. Our staff have been working hard on new, engaging and relevant plans to support you at home.

If you are experiencing any difficulty in any aspect of Distance Learning, please talk this through with your pastoral teacher on Monday or email me on info@hebdengreen.cheshire.sch.uk

Child Care Offer

I will prepare the child care offer to share with you on Tuesday 24th March. This will then allow you as a family to have a week to make any arrangements as necessary in response to that offer. To reiterate, I am waiting for better guidance from the NHS regarding vulnerabilities in many of our children

Workforce

Thank you to all of our wonderful staff for your patience during this really challenging time. Please be assured that I am considering your needs within the child care offer in Hebden Green, including those of you with children who would need to put your children into care to come to our school to provide care. I take my duty of care as your head teacher very seriously and will endeavor to meet your needs as best as I can. The SLT will be contacting you to discuss your needs which will allow me to plan the workforce rota. We are all Key Workers but I will not put additional strain onto the wider Key Worker provision across Cheshire.

Thank you everyone for your support and patience during this challenging time. I am so proud of our whole school community. Thank you for working with me and contributing your ideas.

Please have a restful weekend if you can, I will be in-touch on Monday afternoon at 3pm.

As ever, if you have any questions, comments or would like to talk with me about anything, you can email me on info@hebdengreen.cheshire.sc.uk or call me on 07551 256859.

With kind regards

Alison Ashley

The latest documents which we are formulating our plans from are:

1: Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

2: Guidance for schools, childcare providers, colleges and local authorities in England on maintaining education provision <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

3: Closure of education settings: information for parents and carers <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>