Tuesday 24th March 2020,

Dear Parent Carers,

It is with a heavy heart, and a lot of emotion that I have decided to close our wonderful school from today. Whilst we have tried to remain as ‘normal’ and open for as long as possible, I have a duty of care to my staff, my pupils, to their families and to yourselves.

After watching the briefing last night:

*“From this evening I must give the British people a very simple instruction - you must stay at home Because* ***the critical thing we must do is stop the disease spreading between households****. That is why people will only be allowed to leave their home for very limited purposes…”*

Whilst I appreciate that we have a role to play in enabling key workers to attend work, we also need to recognise that the longer we keep school open the more we are doing to encourage the spread of this virus. We encourage that where one key worker is working, the other parent/carer looks after the child. We had 19 children in yesterday with 9 staff… that’s 28 people who came into contact and then took whatever germs home to their families and which those families may have disseminated further. Today we have 7 children, with 3 staff and then 4 of us in the offices trying to sort logistics for the coming days!! With ‘gatherings being no more than 2 people’ I don’t see how we can justify having the amount of people in the building at the minute.

There are just too many reasons for me to close the school now in order to keep everyone safe and well, and I do this with the full backing of our supportive Governing body. I’m hoping that by following the government’s plan now, we can give ourselves a good 3 week break in order to put plans together in hope of being able to open in some capacity after the planned Easter holiday.

Please do not think this is an easy decision, it couldn’t be further from being easy and has brought with it hours, and days, of worrying, not sleeping properly and being anxious about whether we did the right thing keeping open as long as possible, when other SEN schools were closing, were we right to stay open, have we encouraged the spread of this longer than necessary?

The time has come to take the emotion out of this and do what is right for all of our families in the short term, to get back to routine and life as we knew it, as quickly as we can.

I will continue to email you and keep in touch. You all have the phase email addresses should you need support with work/activities:

Primary classes – [primary@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:primary@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk) Shelley Hughes

3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 – [keystage3@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:keystage3@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk) Kelly Ferran

4.1, 4.2 – [keystage4@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:keystage4@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk) Ben Homer

Chestnut 1, Chestnut 2 – [chestnutcentre@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:chestnutcentre@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk) Rebecca Harrison

Post 16 – [post16@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:post16@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk) Rhian Smith

Wellbeing – [wellbeing@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:wellbeing@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk) Sam Hayward - please use this for any concerns.

My email is [head@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:head@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk) and my work number is 07935 223378

The team will call you regularly to check in on you and to make sure that everyone is alright over the next few weeks.

The Free school meal vouchers are being chased up. We have registered with a company and now need to wait for them to activate this account so we can pay money in, and then notify you all eligible when this is sorted, so you can access your entitlement and be able to use these vouchers for your weekly shopping bill.

Please can you contact us if at any point someone in your house gets diagnosed with this virus.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe and healthy future. Keep all of your children safe and well and in turn yourselves and your families.

I’m so sorry, we tried but the quicker we take action with this, the quicker we can come through it.

Take care

Tracey & all the team at Rigby x