Monday 13th April 2020

Dear Parent carers,

I hope you are all well. From our calls it has been nice to hear about all the things you are doing together at home and how you are keeping yourselves safe and well.

Since we closed, we have had a full 8 school day closure and then we ‘opened’ to a few children on the 6th April. This was a decision made to support family where both parents are key workers.

For the month of April, we are continuing to open on some days for children where both parents are key workers or where vulnerabilities have arisen and been identified by school.

For both reasons stated above, we still have to follow government guidelines as the virus has not gone, restrictions are still in place, and our priority throughout this will always be prevention of infection and preservation of life for all, especially at this time where we haven’t passed the ‘peak’ of the virus.

If you are in a family where you are both key workers and have been unable to find alternative childcare that would keep your child safe, you can request support from us. I respectfully ask for a letter confirming your place of work and working hours in order to support need. If you are part time, this means we can offer support at times when you need it. The government is still stating that where you can manage your work and look after your children in your own home with limited external interaction this should be the case. We are last resort in order for you to sustain your line of key work in response to the coronavirus pandemic. If you have managed to do this amongst your household this should continue so that we do not have too many children and staff mixing together when actually there is a safer option.

Please can you email me at head@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk if you feel you are a family where both parents are key workers and despite best efforts to keep your child in the safety of their own home, require support from school in order to maintain your work.

Where your child might be considered as being vulnerable, and children who have an EHCP are classed as this, we will be assessing need to offer placement. As you can appreciate, all of our pupils have an EHCP and we cannot have 166 children in school with around the 40 staff it takes to keep them safe daily, and still manage to prevent spread of infection. We need to manage this carefully and sensibly. Therefore, although your child may be considered ‘vulnerable’ due to an EHCP, the safest place for them would still be at home with yourselves, limiting risk, spread of infection and contraction of this virus. Whilst I appreciate you may need a bit of ‘respite’ this unfortunately is not a reason to have children and adults mixing unnecessarily in the close proximity of a school.

Over the next couple of days, we will be asking each of you to complete a short survey for us around EHCPs and provision during this period of lockdown. It should only take a few minutes to complete but will provide us with some really important data to continue to holistically support your child during this period of time.

For example, if your child’s EHCP states OT (Occupational Therapy) or SaLT (Speech & language therapy) input, and you require further support with this during this time, please email Chestnutcentre@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk and the team will either support in terms of providing signing or symbol support, or contact our OT or SaLT teams on your behalf. I know this has already been happening for a few pupils so wanted to highlight to all who need it, this support is still there during this time.

Can I also direct you to our school Twitter @RigbyHsch where we share a lot of information around OT, SaLT, Signing, THRIVE, TAC-PAC, Autism etc.

Welfare calls will continue after the 20th April (which should’ve been the start of Summer term) and we will continue to support all of our families through the conversations we have and any arising concerns or needs. As always, if needed in the interim our numbers are:

Tracey Smith Headteacher 07935 223378

Sam Hayward Deputy Head 07935 223374

Shelley Hughes Assistant Head 07716 642824

Thank you so much for your support and understanding at this difficult time. I will continue to keep you updated with any changes.

On behalf of myself and all the staff, Governing body and Friends, we wish you continued good health and look forward to the day when we all come back together again.

Yours sincerely

Tracey

Headteacher