



Dear Parents and Carers

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

## Principals Update

Thank you for your on-going support this term. We understand the added complexities of a child/ young person with SEND, and how the national crisis is having an affect on them and their families. We appreciate the collective efforts of our Severndale community; from the children, the families, and from the staff.

### **'We are not in the same boat, but we are in the same storm'**

It has been a long time since we were open as a fully functioning school, and the situation is expected to go on further into the future. Since lockdown, we have been open for children of key workers and those in vulnerable circumstances who need to come to school. As time has gone on, these numbers have increased, as we would expect. We are grateful to all parents/ carers for the support you give at home, as this has eased pressure for spaces to enable us to implement further safety measures in and around the building. We appreciate that everyone is dealing with this pandemic in the best way they can.

## Parent/carer survey

After half term we will send out a survey to gauge your thoughts and feelings about the situation. This feedback will help to inform us our next steps to ensure that we can find ways to develop our capacity further (where it is safe to do so) and support those who need it. In the current climate, there is a lot of media attention and debate around the safety of the wider opening of schools. How this develops will further inform what we plan towards, as will any updated/ new SEND specific information/ guidance.

Once we have the results of the survey and we have collated updated guidance and information, we will share our thoughts on a provisional plan of how we move forwards into the new academic year in September.

## Support over half term

- **Speech and language therapy (SALT)** - Although the usual support of this service has been altered due to COVID, therapists are still available to give support, advice and guidance over the phone should you need it. If you have any queries, please call them on: 01743 450800.
- **Oak National Academy specialist extra-curricular activities** - Over half term, there will be a different offer of interactive activities designed to meet the needs of children with complex learning difficulties. Although our staff will be on half term, Severndale is a partner in this national development of learning and support. Please find more information in the link: <https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom/specialist>
- **Virtual tour to support transitions and induction** – We will soon have a series of video clips on our website. These short videos will give you and your child a sense of the environments in and around the Monkmoor campus, Severndale@Mary Webb hub, and



Futures. Next half term we will use these to support children/ young people and their families who are planning to transition to different sites, and to welcome children starting Severndale in September. Keep a look out for these and let us know what you think!

- **Severndale social media** – We now have live Facebook and Instagram accounts to share some of the stories and experiences that our pupils, families and staff are doing in their communities during lockdown. This is a new development for us and we are looking forward to see how this works for us all. Please give us some likes and shares! Please email feedback regarding this to: [maria.whittaker@severndaleschool.co.uk](mailto:maria.whittaker@severndaleschool.co.uk) so that we can make this into an exciting and useful resource.
  - Facebook: @severndalespecialistacademy
  - Instagram: @severndalespecialistacademy

We are grateful for your emails, feedback and words of support and kindness. Thank you also for working so closely with us to find the best solutions for our children and young people who we deeply care about.

We hope that you enjoy the break from Zooms and calls and have a good half term.

Best wishes,

**Sabrina**