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27th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to take the opportunity to update you with where we are in terms of this ongoing crisis. As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing. 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.**

Schools have been asked to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. 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.

For those children who have no option but to attend college, it is important to note that it will be impossible to replicate the usual college experience; the emphasis will be on 'care' rather than learning, and we will not be able to provide for the specific individual support and input stated in EHCPs.

What the college is able to offer will change according to the staff we have available at any one time. As a college we are identifying staff who can provide cover and those who cannot as they are self-isolating or have underlying health conditions themselves or within their own household. I am conscious that the school's capacity to provide child care will reduce over the coming weeks as my staffs' personal circumstances change.

If your child usually receives free school meals, we will be sending out a week's worth of lunch's on Monday delivered by our staff team. You will have been contacted if this applies to your family.

Thank you again for your continued support and kind messages that we have received this week. We are aware of what a huge impact this will be having on families and are working hard to support you in the best way we can.

Yours sincerely

Tom Smith
Headteacher