

**Breakspeare School**

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20th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we know the government has decided to continue the lockdown for a minimum of three more weeks e.g. 20th April to 8th May. For Breakspeare and Meadow Wood Schools it means that we will continue to provide provision for students on the Breakspeare site from the following priority groups:

- Key workers
- Vulnerable children (for example child protection, safeguarding)

The key aspect of the health and safety guidance during the Covid-19 pandemic is to maintain social distancing. This is currently very difficult in our schools due to the students' needs for close supervision and support. In order to maximise social distancing the students are cared for and taught in very small groups of 2-3. In order for us to take care of our students at school we need a high number of adults. This inevitably impacts of our resources to manage social distancing. Currently we have the maximum number of students attending that we have operationally risk assessed in line with the government Covid-19 guidance.

The schools have been provided with a very small amount of PPE (personal protection equipment) kit that can be used for emergencies only. We have enough gloves, aprons, hand sanitisers, antibacterial, soap etc. We do not have facial masks and this is becoming more of a topic for discussion in the educational sector. The government has said that it will shortly publish additional advice for settings caring for children and young people with complex needs (such as special schools) where it is harder for the pupils to adhere to instructions on social distancing. This information will be much welcomed.

It is very likely that in the future we will gradually expand our provision. At this present time we are unable to share with you when it will be the right time take this step. We will be following the guidance from the government and the HCC. However I want to inform you that when we are in a position to consider extending our provision the next step will be reopening Meadow Wood School site. Please note that this may mean that we will also cater for some Breakspeare students temporarily at the Meadow Wood School site. The rationale with this plan is to be able to operationally manage a safe and secure school environment.

When it is the right time to do so we will be asking you all again about your perspective and your thinking about your child's return to school. Meanwhile we will continue to support your child by regular links with your child's teacher and providing you with suggested learning activities.

I would like to emphasise the importance of keeping in touch with myself or my deputies with any matters that are about your child's pastoral care or wellbeing. You can do this via the schools' admin emails. We are here to help and support you.

Thank you for your continued support. By working together and supporting each other we will be able to manage this difficult time.

Keep safe with very best wishes, Merja

Useful links:

SUMMARY OF COVID-19 GUIDANCE for educational settings (includes several links):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>

CORONA VIRUS AND WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS COVID-19 ADVICE: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms-and-what-to-do/>

SCHOOL CLOSURES: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures>

SOCIAL DISTANCING:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

GOV.UK ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>