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17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please note the following **updated information** about measures we have put in place to look after our students and staff in light of recent Covid-19 guidance.

Reducing social contacts at Breakspeare and Meadow Wood Schools

- **Having the students' and staff's best interest at heart we have taken the decision that we are no longer allowing visitors to our schools.**
- **All scheduled EHCP and other meetings will be held via 'conference calls' and I will send further information about these arrangements in due course.**
- **If any of our students need urgent support from external services, such as wheelchair services or therapists, we will review the situation case by case. I want to reassure you that no child will be put at a disadvantage by this process.**
- **As you remember we have already cancelled our school activities and trips to the community.**
- **If you bring or pick up your child from school please wait outside by the door.**
- **If you come to school for any other reason or need to see the school nurse or a member of staff, please wait for assistance at reception.**

Vulnerable people

- There is increased debate around the issue of whether all special schools should be closed; currently Public Health, DfE and HCC guidance to special schools and mainstream schools is the same as for all and **therefore our schools continue to be open for the students.**
- However we have a number of pupils with underlying medical and health conditions. Please see the Government's Guidance on Social Distancing for further advice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>
- **Commencing from today if parents of students with underlying medical and health conditions wish to self-isolate their child for medical reasons their absences will be supported.**

Self-isolating

- The symptoms of a new or continuous cough or a high temperature above 37.8C means that a student or a member of staff, who live with other family members should stay at home for **at least 14 days** to protect others and help slow the spread of the disease.

Stress and anxiety

- It's a difficult time and I appreciate that we are all worried about our children, families and friends. Everyone wants to do the 'right' thing and to make sure we have the most up to date knowledge of what is happening and what actions we as citizens might be able to take.
- This is a unique and unprecedented scenario for us all.

Take care of yourselves, your families and friends.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Merja

Note:

- Currently we don't have any confirmed cases of COVID-19 virus amongst our students, parents or staff.
- We have a number of students and staff who are 'self-isolating' due to symptoms of a cough and temperature. It is likely that we will have an increasing number of these cases.
- **It is likely that guidance to schools may change quickly so please follow your emails and text messages.**

Further information:

- Public Health <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>
- DfE guidance for educational settings <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>
- NHS <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

