



12 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your continued support and efforts throughout this pandemic. I am sorry that, at this moment in time, we are not able to make provision for your child/children to attend school. I am continuing to work closely with local partners to provide the best possible solution over the next few weeks of learning.

I had planned to write to you last week to share the results of our recent parent survey. I feel it is still important to share the headlines with you, as well as outline efforts we will make to fine tune and support you better at home in the next few weeks. The improvements that were suggested fell broadly into two areas:

More regular contact from teachers/tutors at school

We have been tracking how pupils are engaging with their learning through checking their interactions on Edmodo. Those not able to use this platform have been provided with paper packs of work. Tutors have been asked to ensure more regular contact is made with families and I know many of them will have spoken to you this week already. If not, you can expect a call next week. We are also hoping to be able to provide some "virtual meetings" with the tutors support for some face to face contact.

Possibility of delivering live lessons

There are a couple of issues preventing us from implementing this at the moment. Our recovery from the RansomWare attack has halted as engineers and specialist staff have been unable to visit our site (I know – ironic in an electronic world). I am mindful that many families have shared with me that they are struggling to share devices in the family, with large numbers of pupils needing to do home schooling alongside parents working from home. We are also delivering paper copies of work to over 100 pupils – I remain focused on ensuring that these pupils are supported and do not fall behind their peers by not having the same opportunities as others. I remain frustrated that the promised DfE laptop and dongle scheme (announced 6 weeks ago to support identified pupils and families) has still to reach any school in our area! I have, however, asked staff to provide more face to face contact where possible, which may take the form of some short video or tutor group sessions as we move forward. As with our tutor sessions, we are exploring the use of Microsoft Teams, but I am trying to navigate a way around the age restrictions placed upon many of these platforms. One method may very well be to use your provided adult email address if families are happy with this.

We continue to follow the daily updates closely and will communicate any changes as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Stefan McHale
Headteacher



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Safeguarding Children is everyone's responsibility.

If you are worried about any child please make an appointment to see either Helen Heffernan, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Robert Cooling, Felicity Grant, Sally Virgin, Designated Safeguarding Deputies
Alternatively, you can phone NPSCC: 0808 800 5000 Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224