



Southfield School

Woods Avenue

Hatfield

Hertfordshire

AL10 8NN

Headteacher: Libby Duggan

Telephone: 01707 276504

Email admin@southfield.herts.sch.uk

Website www.southfield.herts.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers

From Friday 20th March, the Government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible.

They have asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. Some schools will open to provide care for the children of key workers and vulnerable children. Schools are being asked to help in this way as part of a national response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are now planning how to offer care provision for the children who are in these categories. Southfield will be closed from 23rd to 27th March to allow staff to put plans in place for this new provision. Our care provision will be open to identified families from Monday 30th March. If we are able to open any earlier next week, we will let the identified families know. I hope that by giving everyone a specific date now, families will be able to put temporary plans in place for next week.

If your child falls into one of these categories, we will write to you next week. For all other pupils' school will remain closed until further notice. If you have been identified as being a key worker, please e-mail the school admin account by Monday 23rd (thank you to those families who responded to my earlier request for this information).

The provision in school will be very different to the educational curriculum that we usually provide at Southfield. It will be about keeping children safe and allowing key workers (such as NHS staff) to go to work and care for the sick, or to keep food supply chains moving. The number of pupils we can offer this provision to will be limited as we need to keep the numbers of staff and pupils in school lower than usual to allow for social distancing measures and because our staffing numbers will fluctuate due to staff illness/care responsibilities/self-isolation. If our staff numbers fall below a safe ratio, I will have to close the school on a temporary basis. I will of course let families know if this is the case, but will only be able to do this on a day-by-day basis.

I recognise that the Government advice identified all pupils with EHCPs as being in the category that this provision could be offered to, However as all of our pupils have an EHCP this would apply to the whole school. As we need to keep numbers in school low to reduce the risk to pupils and staff, we are only able to offer provision to a small number of identified

families. We are however developing remote learning support so that we can offer appropriate activities to all of our pupils. You will be receiving more information about this in the next few days.

I appreciate that this is a difficult and worrying time for everyone, but would like to re-assure you that we are happy for you to contact us and that we are working hard to provide all of our pupils with continued support. I would like to thank you all for the messages of support we have received; we really appreciate them. I know what a strong community Southfield School is and that with your continued support we will get through these current challenges.

Many thanks

Libby Duggan
Headteacher