

19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

KEEPING OPEN DURING CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19) PANDEMIC

Firstly, thank you for your support and understanding in working with us to maintain education in these very challenging times. Our first priority is to support our most vulnerable children and support our community, especially our key workers.

The situation:

As you will no doubt be aware, the UK Government has issued new advice with regard to Coronavirus. They have advised us that schools will close for the majority of pupils from Friday. We are working together to provide provision for pupils with educational health care plans, those who have a social worker and those children who have parents who are key workers.

What we have done:

You are already aware that we have heightened our own hygiene measures in school and briefed pupils on how to help prevent the spread of all germs and we would appreciate your support in reinforcing this at home. We have also limited social interaction as much as we can during the school day by cancelling non-essential activities. We have also ensured that the most vulnerable pupils remain at home and are safe. Our staff are regularly calling and checking that pupils with additional needs or are at risk are safe and well cared for.

What we plan to do on 20th March:

We have prepared packs of work including revision guides, assessments and guides for parents, for all pupils to take home. Individual schools will be in contact with you over their plans for Friday and we encourage you to send your children to school as long as they are not self-isolating or have a member of the family self-isolating. We will be in contact with parents of those pupils who have not yet had packs in the next week.

We have also accelerated our move to make school work available online for those pupils who are potentially taking external exams. In due course, we will inform you when we make online learning available to all pupils across our schools. Individual schools are also creating additional online content for all pupils, including YouTube videos to help parents and pupils study. We have also sent out the log-in details for all pupils to access Google for Education; where most of our online resources will be saved. Further advice and guidance on using Google services will follow in due course.

What we plan to do from the 23rd March:

Following the guidance from the government, we are going to move our education services to Folkestone All Age Academy. We will run two separate provisions with separate start times, breaks and separate buildings for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers. We are waiting for further guidance from the Government over the definition of key workers and will contact you in due course to collect this information. We will be in contact with the parents of vulnerable children and sharing with them our plans for the next few weeks. We are also waiting for further clarification from the Government over their plans for awarding GCSEs and A-levels this year and we will inform pupils and parents as soon as we can. We are also awaiting guidance about how pupils who are eligible for free school meals can access these over the next few weeks. Again, once we have clarification, we will share this with families as soon as we can.

What you should do:

- Send into school children with an EHCP, vulnerable children and children of key workers unless they and/or their families are self-isolating or have a fever or persistent cough.
- If appropriate, complete the key worker form we will send out later today.
- Ensure that your children share with you the work packs and log in details for Google for Education they have collected from school.

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support in helping us to safeguard the good health of our pupils and all the members of our school community. Once again, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate Principal of your child's school who will also be writing to you to give more details about how we will work together in these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely,



Seamus Murphy,
Chief Executive Officer (Designate).