

20/3/20

Dear parents, carers and families,

If you have seen the communication this morning, you will be aware that the government has now released some guidance regarding how schools are being asked to support vulnerable pupils and those whose parents are key workers.

Initial responses from parents and carers who are requesting a place from next Monday are higher than we anticipated, which may well present challenges both in the short term and as the weeks progress. As it states in the document circulated today:

“If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.”

We need families to think carefully about whether their children really need to attend or whether other arrangements can be made that do not compromise the safety of vulnerable groups (e.g. elderly grandparents). In light of this new guidance, a separate email will be sent to families that have asked for a place to establish if this is still the case and to confirm exactly which days are absolutely required.

It is important to point out that if, for example, key workers are part time, then we will only offer a place on the days that parents or carers work.

From Monday we plan to open for breakfast club and after school club for those children who absolutely need this provision based on the guidance shared this morning.

Earlier this week, we introduced a more streamlined approach for children who have a place in the Integrated Resource and we have sought advice on this from the local authority SEND team and we intend to continue this arrangement, wherever possible, as we may have to reduce it further based on changing staffing scenarios.

We want to play our part in supporting the national effort in these most challenging of times. However, we need to be realistic about what is manageable and what we can maintain over a period of time. You will be aware that for a variety of reasons, we already have a depleted staff team at Nook Lane and this is only likely to become more pronounced over time. This means that whatever provision is initially put in place, will be subject to change, according to the availability and health of staff.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Arbon-Davis