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### Newsletter 19

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share with you the arrangements for children eligible to continue attending The Hendreds School as from Monday 23rd March.

Please note that, **if children are able to stay at home safely they should** as the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

The government this morning has announced the key workers list. This can be found at the following link:

*<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>*

**It is important to stress that, if children can safely stay at home they should do.** The guidelines are clear that the closure of schools is to limit the spread of the virus. With fewer children travelling to school, the risk of spreading the virus to vulnerable groups is reduced.

There will also be children who would be vulnerable if they are at home regardless of parents occupations. Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

**Please turn over**

The following principles should be applied:

- 1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a key worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

Children attending school will not be taught lessons in the normal format, and they will largely be accessing the same work as those children working from home and social distancing will be applied where possible.

Of course, as soon as we have any further updates, we will let you know. It is still our intention to remain open for the foreseeable future, this includes breakfast and after school club.

**Can I please request that you inform the school via the normal communication channels, as soon as possible, if you think you will be sending your children into school next week. This will help to organise staffing and catering provision for the children.**

Once again, we really appreciate the support that we have received from our school community – thank you.

Chris Savage