



Head Teacher – Mr M Loveridge

12th June 2020

Dear parent / carer,

I hope that you continue to be in good health and that you are slowly adjusting to the careful loosening of lockdown restrictions.

As you will be aware, there has been a significant amount of Guidance from the DFE about school provision, much of which has been contradictory. I'm sure you can appreciate that this has made it very difficult for schools to respond in a timely fashion.

We have been carefully responding to the wider opening of schools by gradually increasing the number of students onsite; 25 students are now accessing onsite provision. We have been very careful to ensure that this has happened when it is safe to do so and only if we have staff available to support the provision. Priority has continued to be given to children of key workers as well as responding to level of vulnerability, need, and by invitation from senior staff. Unfortunately this does mean that many children will not have access to the school site until September; I am sure you appreciate that we must prioritise as all of our children fall into "vulnerable categories" as identified by central government. As we have stated, since lockdown began, if you are now in a position where you require onsite provision for your child then please do contact us via the usual channels. We will do our best to accommodate your request, however priority will continue to be given to key workers and those most in need.

The rest of the school are being ably supported by twice weekly phone calls from tutors, TAs and senior staff. This is being supplemented by regular emails and weekly work grids. I also know that most tutors have now organised regular zoom meetings so that students can see and hear each other. These have proven to be very popular with our children. We are also giving increased levels of support to some families via doorstep visits. We support approximately 30 children and their families, every week by meeting them on their doorstep. Again, I ask that if you would like some additional contact with school, to inform the member of staff on one of your weekly phone calls.

As I have mentioned before we are keen to provide some sort of transition for our leaving Year 11s and our joining Year 7s. A team of staff have met to begin to plan transition days for both Year 11 and Year 6; these will take place on the week beginning 6th July. This does mean however that current onsite provision will not be available for students during that week.

We will be providing one or two days of activities for Year 11 children on the 9th and 10th July. Students will start to receive transition work via their class tutor in preparation for this. The day(s) onsite will include many exciting activities including working outdoors and making the most of the site (in a socially distanced way) and will give Year 11 students a chance to say their goodbyes to the school and each other. It is hoped that with enough notice normal transport will be able to be provided. At the moment we are not sure whether this will be for one day per child or for two days per child; this will depend very much on the level of interest we get for these days.

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Please can you email teresaollerhead@rowdeford.wilts.sch.uk to confirm whether you would like your Year 11 child to attend this event by next Tuesday 16th June. We will also be devoting the 26th June as a special day for memories and good wishes for Year 11 on the Facebook page. More details about this will follow in due course.

There has been much in the press about wearing face coverings on public transport. To help prevent the spread of coronavirus, the government has announced that from Monday 15 June, anyone using public transport will be required to wear a face covering. It has now been confirmed that there will be no requirement for children to wear a face covering on school transport organised by Wiltshire Council. However, should children wish to wear a face covering it does not need to be of a professional grade and can easily be made at home – examples can be found here www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering

The Family Fund charity has received extra funding worth £10 million from the Department for Education to provide grants for families on low incomes raising disabled or seriously ill children in England this year.

This emergency funding has been provided in response to the crisis presented by the Coronavirus pandemic and will help more parents and carers to look after their children. Families can apply for grants to make their lives easier while implementing social distancing measures, including computers and tablets, outdoor play equipment and sensory toys.

https://www.familyfund.org.uk/news/10-million-to-help-disabled-or-seriously-ill-children-in-england-during-coronavirus?utm_source=CDC+Newsletters&utm_campaign=847d5a2cdb-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_09_26_10_30_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_14015fa80f-847d5a2cdb-320881585&mc_cid=847d5a2cdb&mc_eid=2f30a0d262

As you will be aware extensive building work will be taking place on site over the summer holiday, which means that no onsite provision will be available over the summer. Due to the delay that Covid-19 has created in the construction industry we have been asked if we would be able to provide earlier access to the site to give contractors more chance of getting the work done by the beginning of the new academic year. This means that unfortunately there will be no onsite support for students on the 20th and 21st July; this means that the last day of onsite support this term will be Friday 17th July 2020.

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The MIND charity, which supports mental health, has some great material to help support the well-being of children and young people. It can be accessed via the link below

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-children-and-young-people/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

There is also information on the website to help adults' well-being if that is helpful.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

Wiltshire council have also set up a Well-Being hub for anybody that may need support. The contact details are wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk or 0300 003 4576.

Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions or require clarification please do not hesitate to get in touch via the usual channels.

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