

Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents

Good afternoon. I write to update you with regard to our planning for provision after schools close at the end of the day this Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

We are currently working tirelessly preparing on;

1. Providing work for children learning at home
2. Making provision for vulnerable children and the children of essential key workers

### **Providing work for children learning at home**

Staff are working flat out to prepare for this including sending home what resources it is feasible to do so by Friday while also ensuring we consider and include the children already self isolating at home.

We have created a dedicated page of our website with guidance and tips regarding home learning as well as information regarding procedures. Please visit <http://follifootandspofforth.co.uk/home-learning/> and read all this information carefully.

### **Provision in schools for vulnerable children and the children of essential key workers**

Frustratingly we still await clarification on the definition of 'essential key workers'. We have been told by the Department of Education this information will be 'released later'. Until we get this and can accurately assess how many children we would need to cater for we are unable to confirm any arrangements.

While we await this clarification I can update you on our early thoughts.

The current definition of vulnerable children in relation to provision during school closures is;

- Children with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- Children with an allocated social worker

Our early thinking is that we will be aiming to offer care based provision for vulnerable children and the children of essential key workers at Spofforth school during school hours (8.55 – 3.20) term time only. I acknowledge this is a basic core offer and we are currently exploring options of if it is feasible to offer an extended day also. However, given we have no idea how long this provision may need to last for it is crucial we look to establish a model that has the best chance of being sustained over an extended period of time taking in to account the likelihood that more staff will either need to self-isolate or be taken ill.

In this possible model children would be supervised by support staff with one teacher on site also. Children would have supervision and where possible support to complete the work sent to all other children.

Our model would assume vulnerable children and the children of key workers would only access this provision when they genuinely need it as one of aims of closing schools is to support social distancing.

As is always the case school will only remain open when it is safe to do so. There is every chance despite all best efforts staffing will get to a level where it is unsafe to keep this provision open and the decision would be taken to close school.

We would of course give those parents accessing this provision as much advanced notice of this as is possible.

We are also working with the Local Authority with regard to sign posting parents to other hub provision should we need to take the decision to close our provision.

When we receive a final definition of essential key workers will be getting in touch with everyone who has contacted us so far regarding the possibility of accessing this provision. While respecting privacy and not wishing to pry we may have to seek clarification around job roles in order to accurately assess if roles meet the agreed definition.

**If you have not already done so please** let us know if you are a key worker in an essential service such as the (NHS, Police or Fire Service) or have a child who is classed as vulnerable (as described above) please contact the school if **you are not able** to make childcare arrangements so that we can put in place provision for your child. Please contact us via [admin@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@spofforth.n-yorks.sch.uk) or [admin@follifoot.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@follifoot.n-yorks.sch.uk).

In your contact please state the nature and location of your work and if you are full or part time. If you are part time please let us know the days you work.

I will update everyone further as we receive more information.

Many thanks for your understanding as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely

Mr Paul Griffiths Headteacher.

