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Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you for all the messages of support that have come in to school during the last 24 hours. It really means a lot to the school to know that the school has the confidence of its community. I will try to be as concise as possible, but there is a lot of information to share based on our meetings and planning from today.

Highwood Opening Strategy

- Class teachers will provide learning Key Worker / Vulnerable children provision in school in **Year Group Bubbles** up to a maximum of 15 pupils. Due to extra space, we may be able to increase this for EYFS – this will be reviewed during our first week.
- If we reach the 15 capacity, children will be placed on a waiting list until a place becomes available or we can increase our staffing capacity.
- Whilst 1 class teacher is delivering face to face teaching, the other class teacher in the year group will be providing all the remote learning for the children at home, responding to children's work and parental emails.
- Members of support staff will offer help in the classroom, as well as preparing resources that need to be posted to children; doing phone calls to check in with children and helping supervise children during break times etc. **If you require, or would prefer, paper copies of resources, then please email into the year group email addresses to request.**
- Work will be emailed / shared on Microsoft Teams each morning alongside some fun Twitter challenges for children in school and at home. We want to keep our sense of community and interact with children not in school and Twitter was a really successful part of our first lockdown approach.
- We are looking to support families by providing electronic devices to help access home learning. We have a limited number available, so this will be done in order of priority according to the school's criteria.

Key Worker / Vulnerable children provision in school

Thank you for all families that have completed the survey. At the time of writing this email we have had 154 responses.

- Children that meet the criteria set out for Key Worker / Vulnerable children provision have been sent a text confirming that we can meet their requests.
- Phone calls will continue tomorrow to families that meet the criteria but have not yet completed the survey.
- Please do not bring your children to school unless you have been contacted by the school to say we have an available space in your child's bubble.
- Please arrive and pick up at the usual staggered times previously sent out.

School Lunch

- Hot meals will be available – we are currently on the Spring menu.
- Caterlink's provision may move to providing a packed lunch option only – I will keep you updated.

Early Year's Provision

We have had some questions about Early Year's provision in relation to the Prime Minister's announcement last night and the school's chosen approach. The guidance that has come into school overnight states:

Early Years settings (including nurseries and childminders) should continue to allow all children / pupils to attend as normal. School-based nurseries in primary schools have discretion to follow arrangements for the primary school.'

Due to our staffing capacity, we have taken the decision to offer Nursery places in line with strategy for the rest of the school and offer places to Key Worker and Vulnerable children.

Uniform

- Children will wear full school uniform and PE kits will still need to be in school.

I hope this covers all the essential bits of information that parents need to know for now. There are bound to be elements that need reviewing once we see our plan in action. Any feedback is welcomed to make sure that our provision is the best it can be in the current circumstances we are working within.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best Wishes,



Matt Hickey
Headteacher
Highwood Primary School