

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

Dear families

I am writing to you, at this very difficult time, to ask that if you are currently at home and your child is able remain with you in a safe environment, that you consider keeping your child at home.

As I am sure you are aware, with the latest government guidelines about social distancing measures, any child or staff member coming into school is at risk of infection. Social distancing at Dysart is a challenge and I would hope that as a community we can work together to minimise the risks and the impact that daily integration will have. The fewer students in school, the more manageable social distancing will be.

Please take into account the Government guidelines issued late on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, regarding students with an EHCP which states:-

*Those with an EHC plan should be risk-assessed by their school or college in consultation with the local authority (LA) and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.*

We are now fast approaching the situation whereby we will have to take the difficult decision as to which students we are able to safely offer a place in school. Our priority will be for those students where both parents (or one parent for single parent families) are key workers. Our senior leadership team will be identifying the students who most need support at this time. In doing this, Dysart will be able to support the country during these challenging times. Not only must we consider the safety of our students but the wellbeing of our staff in this incredibly stressful time.

I am therefore pleading with you to consider, very carefully, how necessary it is for your child to be in school. Unless you have already spoken to a member of staff and have agreed you are not sending your child in, please let us know on 07852-998775 that you will be willing to keep your child at home.

I would like to thank you for your continued support. I know that I am asking a lot of you but it is in the hope that we can work together as a community and get through this even stronger.

Yours sincerely



**Leigh Edser**  
**Principal**