

12th May 2020

Dear families

Following on from my update letter yesterday, the guidance for schools was issued late last night. For mainstream schools the information remains much as it was when the Prime Minister gave his speech on Sunday evening, however there is now some guidance for special schools which is as below:-

Special schools, special Post-16 institutions and hospital schools should work towards welcoming back as many children and young people as can be safely catered for in their setting. They may want to prioritise attendance based on key transitions and the impact on life chances and development, and to consider creating part-time attendance rotas so that as many children as possible can benefit from attending their setting. Special settings should work with local authorities and families to ensure that decisions about attendance are informed by existing risk assessments for their children and young people, which should be kept up to date.

As you can imagine we are not in a position to provide every child with a full time place at school whilst also adhering, as much as possible within our setting, to social distancing requirements. I, along with the rest of the Senior Leadership Team (within school and OHCAT) have carried out an exercise to determine how many pupils and staff it would be safe to have on site when taking social distancing into account; this information will be used to inform our planning going forward.

We will therefore be setting up a rota based provision, other than for critical keyworker children and those who are deemed most vulnerable. We will aim to support every family as best as we can during this period of time and readjustment. It is clear, however, that these plans could be changed if the national rate of infection begins to rise again.

**If you do not wish your child to return to school before September please can you let Sue Bashford know via email sbashford@dysartschool.org so that we can factor this into our planning?
Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.**

We will be in touch with families as soon as possible, and before Friday 22nd May, to let you know of the provision we are able to offer your child from 1st June which is the first day back after the half term break.

We hope you all continue to stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely



**Leigh Edser
Principal**