

27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Families,

I'm writing with an update with regards to The Rise School during COVID-19.

### Thank you

First of all, I want to express a sincere thank you to all of you at home who made the difficult but correct choice for your child to #stayhomesavelives. It is safer for everyone in the community, immediate and wider, when more people are at home. Equally, I'm very grateful for all the warm wishes and messages we've received from families over email and over the phone.

### Staffing Update

In an aside from COVID-19, I want to take this opportunity to ensure you are informed about two teachers who are sadly leaving us at Easter.

Danielle McKinley – Primary Curriculum and Assessment Lead and Willow's Teacher is relocating to Somerset. Willow class loved lessons with Dannie so she'll be much missed. Rebecca Angus will be looking after Willow for the summer term.

Jeanette Ellis – Food Tech teacher is retiring. Jeanette has been with The Rise since day one and has done a huge amount to establish Food Tech as the incredibly popular and important subject that it is today. She'll also be hugely missed. A very experienced Food Tech teacher is joining us called Hayley Hunter. She will be in part time during the Summer Term and full time from September 2020.

### Summer Term at The Rise

In a rapidly changing situation, it is difficult to predict what the situation will be in three weeks time when we are due to re-open on April 20<sup>th</sup> for the summer term.

However, the most recent '[Guidance for Vulnerable Children and Young People](#)' (published at 8pm on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020) makes it clear that it is **not expected that all children with an EHCP attend school**. It explains that schools and LAs, make a risk assessment for whether a child would be safer in school or at home. **Therefore we do not expect to fully re-open on April 20<sup>th</sup> for the vast majority of pupils.**

We will be in contact with you during the week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> April to discuss this with you, and to understand your intentions regarding your child's schooling.

### Learning from School and Learning from Home – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April – 11<sup>th</sup> May (3 weeks)

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To support this, we will be making every effort to synchronise what Learning from School and Learning from Home looks like.

All pupils will have the same learning materials whether they are at home or at school. These packs will arrive after Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

**There will be an information sheet for parents with this pack that goes into more detail.** We will also be providing answer booklets for parents. We will not be setting work that requires access to computers and the internet, at least not at the start.

These Learning from Home Packs will be different to the work packs we have already sent out. They were to fulfil an immediate and potentially short-term need. Now we know that we need an approach that will be sustainable, predictable and productive for a longer period. Equally, there will be more contact (via phone and email) from teachers and TAs.

### **Learning from Home – Social Support**

We will seek to replicate as many of the experiences and support that your child receives in school. Therefore, if your child has 1:1 sessions with Gemma, Matt, Marta, Victor or Rebecca they will be in touch with you, so that these sessions can continue from home.

Equally, the class team will be in touch at least twice a week to check-in with you and your child.

### **Learning from Home – FSM**

We have already been in touch with families who are entitled to Free School Meals and will continue to ensure that if your child is Learning from Home that we send you the e-voucher to use in the supermarket.

### **Learning from School – A Reduced Day (Commencing 20<sup>th</sup> April – until further notice)**

For the **minority of pupils who are considered safer in school**, we will be operating a reduced day which removes Period 1 and Period 6.

Breakfast Club	9am	Lesson from the Learning from Home Pack:
Pupil Arrival	9.15am	

Registration	9.30	
Period 2	9.40-10.20	Deliver 'Lesson 1'
Reward and Break	10.20-10.50	
Comfy Read	10.50-11	
Period 3	11-11.40	Deliver 'Lesson 2'
Period 4	11.40-12.20	Deliver 'Lesson 3'
Reward and Lunch	12.20-1.20	
Period 5	1.20-2	Deliver 'Lesson 4'
Pupils leave	2pm	

I will be posting a short video on our youtube channel that explains this approach in more detail. I am available on [helen.ralston@theriseschool.com](mailto:helen.ralston@theriseschool.com) throughout the Easter holidays if you have any questions or queries.

I sincerely wish that you all stay safe and well, and we will be in touch again with updates.

Kind Regards,

Helen Ralston

