



**Headteacher: Mrs. Sharon Chinnappa B.Sc. (Hons) M.Ed. NPQH**

18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

There have been several announcements released since last Sunday that have talked about more students returning to school. I am writing to clarify what role SEN schools have in the government guidance and this letter sets out our response to this information to give you, parents and carers, a heads up with what might be changing in the near future.

This proposal is based upon the government giving schools the go-ahead to start gradually re-opening provision based on their 5 key tests from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.

- Special Schools are not being asked to bring specific year groups back into school. We are expected to continue offering school places to students from keyworker families and those students who are the most vulnerable, mostly with social care involvement. We have been doing this and will continue to do so.
- Based on the latest government guidelines we have decided to start offering places to those in year 10 on a very part-time basis from June 1<sup>st</sup> and as time passes and the situation improves, we intend to gradually offer more places to students in other year groups where it is safe to do so and as long as government guidelines allow for this. Phone calls to year 10 parents will take place this week.
- We are not expecting children to return to school if parents and carers feel they are safer at home. There is no pressure to return. Home remains the safest place for the vast majority of students.
- When students come into school, we must make sure we have enough staff with the appropriate knowledge and skills to meet the needs of our students. Currently we have 70% of our staff available. If this situation changes, we will need to revise our provision.
- We must try to maintain social distancing as best as we can and cannot have too many children and adults in school at any one time. We have calculated that we can have 5 people in a class at a time to enable social distancing measures to be implemented where possible. This means a maximum of 3 students per class. These classes will have a static staff team for the day and will not be able to mix with other groups. We will run staggered breaks and lunch times and will have to take care with arrivals and departures.
- No visitors will be allowed into school at all at present. I am afraid that this includes parents and carers.

#### **Communication and Learning from home**

- Tutors will continue to phone families every week
- We will post information and updates on our website
- We continue to use our school comms service regularly to inform you of any updates
- Home learning is available for every child in every class and we will continue to provide high quality home learning via SAM Learning. Paper resources are available upon request.

Thank you all for your support and the positive feedback we have been receiving about our staff team and the efforts they are going to, to keep in touch and support you and your child.

Yours Sincerely

Headteacher