21st March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your continued support during this challenging week for us in school.

As you know further information has been released by the Government yesterday and the situation regarding key workers has now been clarified.

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. Schools remain safe places, but the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Children attending school next week do not need to come in uniform but do need to wear clothes and footwear that will be suitable for physical activities. They should also bring their equipment.  The children will be served breakfast and lunch. The children who do not receive free school meals will have to bring money to buy these meals. We have a skeleton programme in place for Monday and will amend this when we see how many children arrive.   School will be open during normal school hours.

We have spoken to those pupils identified as vulnerable in the Government guidance and they have been told they are welcome to attend if they need to.   Pupils who are entitled to a free school meal will be able to collect a food parcel weekly from Lancashire Catering Services. We will be in touch to explain how this distribution will take place.

Despite this being a unique and difficult week in school it has been positive. On Thursday we gave the Year 11s a leaving service and assembly and yesterday we had a short service and sing a long for our Year 13s. When we do reopen we will make sure those year groups will have a proper Our Lady’s farewell but hopefully the anxiety of this week was alleviated briefly by the services.

I will send out a further letter for parents of pupils learning from home. This will outline the daily and weekly expectations and hopefully will support you in helping your children in the coming weeks.

I shared the following with staff before we closed and hope it helps you too. ‘I choose faith over anxiety, hope over worry and love over fear’. We must remain positive; we will get through this and I look forward to when we can all meet again.

We will continue to pray for everyone in our school community. I would ask you to pray for us too. The staff have and will continue to work incredibly hard to support your children and your families.

I will continue to provide updates as necessary.

Yours sincerely

Helen Seddon

Headteacher