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To Parents/Carers

20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home then they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend, i.e. those for whom there is no safe alternative.

We have therefore been asked to continue to provide childcare for a limited number of children from two specific groups only - [children who are vulnerable](#) and [children whose parents are critical to the national Covid-19 response \('key workers'\)](#) and cannot be safely cared for at home.

[Vulnerable children](#) include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans. If your child belongs to one of these groups then if we have not contacted you already and you need your child to attend our 'childcare provision' from Monday onwards then please contact us at contactportal@helsbyhigh.org.uk to let us know*.

[Children of 'key workers'](#) can attend our childcare provision from Monday onwards if they have a parent/carer who works in any of the designated lines of work (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision> for details). If your family belongs to any of these categories and you need your child to attend our 'childcare provision' from Monday onwards then please contact us at contactportal@helsbyhigh.org.uk to let us know*.

If contacting us to let us know your child belongs to either group above and you have no safe childcare alternatives then please let us know the following information:

Student Name:

Year Group:

(Brief) reason for childcare eligibility:

Full-time or part-time (please give details):



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Thank you for your understanding at this time. Although we know that you will all be exceptionally busy, we would appreciate it if you could respond to the above request as soon as possible so that we can finalise our plans for Monday. We have outline plans in place for childcare on Monday - you may have noticed my deliberate use of this word throughout my correspondence as from Monday we will be a provider of childcare and not education. Adults will be present as supervisors and not teachers, although we will be providing access to computers to enable children to complete the learning set for all of our students remotely via ShowMyHomework.

Please note that I will share details later today of arrangements for children requiring childcare in school and those at home on Monday in the form of two separate letters - hence your continued regular checking of our social media outlets will continue to be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Hill'.

Martin Hill
Headteacher