

CORONAVIRUS - UPDATE FOR PARENTS

19.3.20

Dear Carers and Parents

We all heard the government announcement regarding the closure of schools in England at the same time last night. Schools had no prior knowledge the announcement was to be made yesterday.

However, I think we all knew that it was more than likely going to happen, and it was just a matter of when, so we have been working on preparing how best to support the pupils' learning at home.

What hadn't been fully anticipated was the government's plan to try to continue delivering school-based learning for some pupils, but not others. The definition of 'vulnerable' children used by the government last night included all children with EHCPs, which of course, is our entire pupil population.

They also want to provide school based learning for the children of 'key workers', most notably people who work in the NHS, the Police, Social Workers and delivery drivers, though they intend to provide a more detailed list at some point today.

At 10.30am I will be part of a conference call with the local authority to discuss plans going forward.

The most pressing issue I have is knowing how many staff will be available on Monday, if their own children are at home and needing to be cared for. Based on what I know, I think this could involve over 50% of my staff. On top of this, we have staff currently self-isolating with their families.

I also need to know how many of our parents and carers work in one of the front line services that would put them in the category of 'key worker'.



Therefore please could you ring or email school and let us know what job you do if you work please, regardless of what you do.

Telephone 0161 368 6208 or email: admin@thomasashton.tameside.sch.uk

Please keep a close watch on the school's website as I will use this to post further information once I have it.

We are in unique times and we have to find the best way to do things. At the moment there are more questions than answers, so today will be all about finding those answers and sharing them with everyone.

We are all very anxious and we all have families to care (and worry!) for, so the most important thing is to be patient and kind to one another, and to stick together!

I think it is what we are good at doing at Thomas Ashton School!

Robin Elms
Headteacher