



11th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Statement by the Prime Minister on Sunday 10th May 2020

No doubt you will be aware of the statement made by Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday where he mentioned potential next steps in relation to schools. We are keen to provide some immediate reassurance following this statement and explain to you the current position in relation to Haytor View.

I expect that the statement made will have raised many questions in your minds, and in those of your children. At this stage, having only just seen the statement ourselves we sadly unable to answer all of these questions, however be assured that as soon as we have further information from Government and the Local Authority, we will let you know what this means for our school and your children. Prime Minister Johnson will be talking with parliament today, therefore we can expect more detail to follow over forthcoming days.

What is clear is that for the time being, for the next three weeks, nothing has changed. It is important that you continue to prioritise the safety of your family and yourselves by staying at home where you can and maintaining social distancing when you have contact with others.

As a school team we are keen to get more children back into school as soon as it is safe to do so. We recognise the importance of children being in school, with their friends and teachers, as well as the challenges presented by keeping children at home during this time.

With this in mind however, we would also want you to be assured that as guidance emerges for having children in school, through our leadership and Governing Board we will retain the responsibility to make decisions regarding the safety of pupils, parents and staff based upon our judgement and assessment of risk. With this in mind be assured that **we will not make decisions that may compromise the safety of children, staff, parents or any other members of our school community.**

As matters move forward we will seek to share and demonstrate to you our commitment to keeping children safe. We also recognise there will be difficult decisions for parents and families to make concerning attendance, particularly in any early stages. While many key elements concerning next steps are yet to be ironed out, we would wish to provide assurance that as a school **we will not be seeking to penalise parents and families who we recognise as making valid personal decisions relating to children's safety during initial steps towards returning to school.**

As a new week begins, we wish you and your families well in these difficult times. We would point you in the direction of our website www.haytorview.devon.sch.uk for information and guidance about activities that will support your children's time at home. Should you want any further or additional support of this nature please get in touch with us in the usual way: through School Gateway; via our website; or by phoning 01626 203040. While our phones

are not continually staffed at the moment they are monitored regularly, so if you leave a message someone will get back to you.

You may also have had phone calls from our staff team saying 'hello' over recent times, we are continuing this approach among others in order to keep in touch with you and your children, so feel free to raise any concerns or worries during these calls too. It's great when we're able to talk to you and your children, so thank you for allowing us the time to do so.

Once again thank-you for your patience and continued support.

Yours sincerely

Katy Galling
Head of Learning and Development

Niema Bohrayba
Chair of Governing Board