



4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Provision for children in school in the event of school closure

During these uncertain times we are keen to make the necessary arrangements for children and their learning in the event that the school closes due to Government or Local Authority guidance. **As we write this letter we have no sense of when or even if this is going to happen so would encourage you not to be alarmed as we seek to make 'just in case' plans.**

As a school we are clear around our continued commitment to provide access to school-based provision for children of those families recognised as being in **the highest level of recognised need**. This may be due to parents' 'key worker' status or due to other circumstances that lead to children being considered vulnerable.

During the last period of school closure in the Spring and Summer Term last year, your child accessed ongoing school-based provision due to your circumstances. We were grateful at the time that you used this provision mindfully and respectfully, enabling us to not only keep our school staff safe but also allow us to offer availability to families in a range of challenging circumstances.

At this stage we are keen to understand from you whether, faced with school closure, you would wish your child to again access provision in school as a result of your personal circumstances. It is reassuring to know that in sharing your position with us that we can rely upon you being considerate of our teaching staff and of other families within the community, all of whom we wish to keep safe, as well as serve, should we need to close the school.

With this in mind could we ask you to **reply to this letter urgently by messaging via School Gateway or sending us an email to admin@haytorview.devon.sch.uk** and share the following information:-

- Whether your child, in the event of school closure, would need access to school-based provision
- Which days of the week this provision would be needed
- Whether the provision would be needed for whole days (8.50am – 3.15pm) or half days (8.45am – 12.30pm to include lunchtime; 12.30-3.15pm)

You will appreciate the challenges that planning in face of such uncertainty presents us as a school, and it is with this in mind that we would ask for your **response by 10.00am on Tuesday 5th January**. Be assured that we will be keen to meet needs described as we have done previously.

In the event of school closure we would ask you to consider previous government guidance around your child's attendance:-

- **If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading**
- **Schools are asked to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend**
- **The fewer the children in education settings the lower the risk the virus can spread**
- **Many key workers may be able to ensure that their child is kept at home, and every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

We will aim to confirm your child's place within any school-based provision, as soon as we are made aware of any plans for schools to be closed.

Yours sincerely

Katy Galling
Head of Learning and Development

Niema Bohrayba
Chair of Governing Board