

8th April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope you have all managed to have something that resembles an “Easter break” and that your lives have started to find the new natural rhythm that I spoke of when I last wrote. I have been trying not to keep contacting you unless I have any clear updates, as I am very conscious I have been filling your “inboxes” of late. However, as we move towards the next phase in managing these unique and uncertain times I felt it would be appropriate for me to write again.

Term starts again for us all on Tuesday 14th April but **sadly the school will remain closed** for the vast majority of pupils and remote learning will continue as before. As previously mentioned, we will review how things are going after a couple of weeks and we will continue to evolve how we are managing the online / remote education provision for pupils. Please contact staff directly if you have any individual queries.

The school will open again on Tuesday 14th April for the pupils of “Key Workers”, pupils with EHCPs and those in other identified vulnerable groups. It is important that pupils only attend school when they really have to and there is no alternative. All previous guidelines must continue to be followed in order to maintain social distancing and reduce the risks to pupils, families and staff. Please believe me I know on a personal level just how tempting it is to send your children into school to give yourself a break. Staff who have children of their own have also inundated me with offers to volunteer to come in! We are all in this together so please only request a place for your children if it is necessary. If you do require a place, please email: GTSProvision@gts.devon.sch.uk stating your child’s name, your occupation/identified need and the days required by Friday 9th April. We appreciate circumstances may change so can I please ask you all to use the email address above with any issues regarding provision during the period of closure.

There is currently no indication how long the period of school closure will last or how a return to school will be managed, or indeed what the provision will look like when we return. It is important that **none of us make any assumptions**. We could be back within a few days, two weeks, by half term or even not until September. At this stage, we should all keep working as hard as we can and make full use of the learning opportunities available to us. Year 11 pupils will have received a letter directly from the Department of Education regarding their exam results and we will be providing further information shortly.

I hope that any of you whose financial circumstances have changed because of Covid-19 have applied for Free School Meals (FSM) as highlighted in a previous letter. In the next few days, we will be confirming how we will continue to support families who are in receipt of FSM.

Enjoy the rest of the break and have a safe, healthy and happy Easter.

Yours faithfully



Andy Bloodworth
Headteacher