

## Special arrangements in relation to COVID-19.

Following the closure of schools from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 Government guidelines stated:

*Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.*

*Those with an EHC plan should be risk-assessed by their school in consultation with the local authority (LA) and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.*

In order to ensure that our pupils with EHC plans are supported we have consulted families with regards to whether or not their child needs to attend school. We have ensured that the expectations for work being done at home is understood and that pupils can access the work being set by school staff. As a school we are undertaking weekly check-ins to ensure that pupils' outcomes are kept at the forefront and that their emotional needs are being met. Work set by class teachers takes into account the needs of the pupils in their classes and is open-ended in nature to allow pupils to engage with and further their own learning.

Contact details of class teachers have been communicated to all parents via home learning packages. The Headteacher or SENCO may also be contacted by the following email addresses:

Headteacher – Mrs Deborah Sadler [head@heath.shropshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@heath.shropshire.sch.uk)

SENCO – Mrs Helen Hipkins [hipkins.h@heath.shropshire.sch.uk](mailto:hipkins.h@heath.shropshire.sch.uk)

We are aware that the transition period for our pupils with SEND has been greatly affected by the current situation and we continue to work alongside our nursery and secondary colleagues to ensure that the information needed is shared. As the summer term progresses, we will begin to send out transition style material that will endeavour to support all our pupils at this transitional time.

Resources that support our pupils' emotional and social development during this unprecedented time have been uploaded on to the school social media, website and class Dojo. These will continue to be updated for the foreseeable future.

External agencies will only become involved if necessary following the usual graduated response process.

For further information or advice during this time, please follow the link to the Shropshire Local Offer:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/news/more-helpful-information-and-guidance-for-children-young-people-parentcarers-and-staff-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/>

The following link provides information concerning temporary changes to the law on EHCPs due to coronavirus.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus/education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-guidance-on-temporary-legislative-changes-relating-to-coronavirus-covid-19>