



"Inspiring Excellence"

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Headteacher – Mr. Rob Campbell

Friday, 20 March 2020

Dear Parents,

As you will be aware, whilst schools are closed to the majority of pupils from Monday, we will be continuing to open for a small number of children who "absolutely need to attend". Parents are being asked by the government to **keep their children at home wherever possible**. This is to reduce the spread of this virus by limiting contact between individuals.

This includes having children cared for by:

- a parent (who may, themselves, have to give up work to offer this care)
- a parent's spouse/ partner (who may, themselves, have to give up work to offer this care)
- an older, responsible sibling (e.g. young adults)
- a friend or relation (NOT including "those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.")

Leeming RAF CP school will be open on Monday for:

- 1) Children with an EHCP
- 2) Children who are supported by Social Care including those on Child in Need and Child Protection Plans (not including Early Help)
- 3) Children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response AND WHO CANNOT BE SAFELY KEPT AT HOME (see above). This will include:
  - a) Children where **both parents** are currently **servicing** in the armed forces
  - b) Children of **single parents servicing** in the armed forces
  - c) Children where **one parent is servicing** in the armed forces and **the other parent is classed as a key worker**.
    - i) Please click this link to see the [full list of key workers](#).

We will be sending out a survey imminently which parents will need to answer to determine which pupils will be returning to school on Monday. Please respond to this as quickly as possible; *if you do not let us know that you fit into one of the 3 categories above, we will not be able to accommodate your children in school next week*. Please also note that whilst the list does include some broad areas of work, the essential detail is that parents / employers *need to be able to demonstrate that their role is "critical to the COVID-19 response"*. This will be continually reviewed, and if the definitions of key workers are amended, or your role becomes / ceases to become critical, school will adapt around these changes.

I also wish to reiterate and encourage parents that even if your child does fit into one of the three categories above (1 / 2 / 3a,b,c) **there is no obligation to send your child into school**, and the government's advice is that wherever possible, they **should not attend**. This is primarily for the health and wellbeing of the children and yourselves, but also for the nation as a whole. The government have taken this unprecedented step to slow the spread of this virus. In addition, there are other implications – sending your child to school when they may be the only pupil in their class / year etc. will be incredibly challenging for them emotionally and mentally. School will not, and indeed should not, be running "business as usual".

I am acutely aware that this will put huge pressure on individual families – that this will have implications on parents' jobs, finances, free time etc. All I can say is that this is a time of national crisis, and we are all in uncharted waters.

In addition, please continue to be vigilant and observe all the government guidance about social distancing and self-isolation. I should reiterate that, regardless of whether your child falls into one of the categories above, if *any member of the household* shows symptoms of COVID-19 (new persistent cough / fever), then the whole family should self-isolate for 14 days.

I close with the key message from the government, who, in the interests of all, have stated: "Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors[.] **Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**"

Thank you for your co-operation, support and understanding. We will continue to update you as soon as possible.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Campbell', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Rob Campbell