



May 12th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on next steps here at Colmers following the Prime Minister's announcement last Sunday and the latest guidance issued yesterday by the Department for Education.

New Government Guidance and Next Steps

Yesterday's guidance clarifies the expectation that, subject to the scientific advice, we will offer some face-to-face support in school for Years 10 and 12 from June 1st. In addition, we will continue to offer places in school to children of Critical Workers and those identified as vulnerable. We are really pleased that we will have increased opportunities to support more students in school as soon as it is safe to do so. We also remain totally committed to helping all of our students in their learning while they are at home.

I am sure you will want to know in detail exactly how we will organise our offer to Years 10 and 12. I hope you will understand that the detail is not yet ready as we are still awaiting further advice and guidance. As soon as I am able to share details with you, I will write to set out our plans. At this stage, we are considering how we make sure that everything we put in place manages risks to children, families and staff as effectively as possible. I intend to write with further details early next week – I appreciate it may be an anxious and/or exciting time for you while you are wondering how this next stage will work but hope you understand that we need a little time to make sure our plans are robust and thorough.

If you are a Key Worker who has not yet taken up the on-site provision and your circumstances are changing, please contact main reception on 0121 453 1778 to discuss your child attending school. Please note, this provision remains open only to children already identified as vulnerable and to children of Critical Workers, as defined in this government guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>.

Your support in notifying us if your needs change is greatly appreciated so that we can plan appropriate levels of staffing on site. Please note we are operating all of our provision in line with guidance on strict social distancing.

I am also attaching below some advice that has recently been issued to support on-line safety. Nationally, there have been some concerns raised about children being exposed to radicalisation on-line. This is a difficult time for all of us to make sense of the huge changes that we are living through. There are undoubtedly some individuals and groups who seek to take advantage of young people by introducing them to extreme views through the internet. The guidance gives us useful advice about the risks, the signs to look out for and how to best support your child.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact us if you do have any concerns at all during this challenging time.

Wishing you all safe and well,

Emma Leaman
Headteacher