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Secondary Site:
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19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Update on actions following the Government directive to close schools

I am sure you are aware of the government's announcement last night that all schools will close on Friday, except to the parents of key workers, vulnerable students and those with Education Health and Care Plans. They are also asking that provision is made for the children of these groups over the Easter holidays.

We still lack specific guidance for special schools with children with complex needs. We are acutely aware that a number of our students have chronic conditions and are at risk if they are not able to practice social distancing. We are also acutely aware that we have a number of children who simply do not understand hygiene and as hard as we try to wash their hands, and keep them at a safe distance from each other, this is not something we can guarantee. The Head Teachers' unions and teachers' unions are working with the government to seek further clarity and ensure children are safe both socially and medically.

While we await further advice, we are taking the following action:

- **From Monday, we will close the secondary site and move those students who we need to stay open for to the primary site. We do not intend to mix class groups. We have spoken to transport and the school meal providers and have also taken into consideration the need to adapt our toileting facilities and classrooms to accommodate the secondary students.**
- Continuing stringent hygiene measures, with staff and students regularly washing hands and all surfaces and resources being washed and wiped daily
- No off-site learning
- Restriction on visitors to school. Only therapists and the school nurses are in.
- Staff to self isolate if they show symptoms, or if someone they live with does.



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- Staff to practice stringent social distancing should they have a pre-existing condition
- Students with pre-existing conditions to remain at home and practice social distancing
- We have set up a learning blog called 'Mabel at Home' which will give you suggestions for learning, links to websites, filmed signs of the day and videos of lessons. We will be posting daily challenges and inviting you to share what your child has been doing via an email address: mabelathome@mabelprichard.org so we can maintain a community spirit.
- Class teachers who are well will send welfare emails to families to ensure you are in touch. Senior leadership team members will send them otherwise.

For those of you concerned about your child not being able to access free school meals in these times, we have spoken to our caterers on both sites and are waiting for confirmation of what they are able to provide. As soon as we have further information regarding this we will let you know.

Please do contact us at any time if you would like further information or even a chat. We are all here to support each other in these unprecedented times.

Take care all



Lucy Wawrzyniak
Head Teacher