

20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your ongoing support at this unprecedented time. Elms Bank is facing high staff absence due to the Corona Virus and this has been a changing picture throughout this week; therefore I am very grateful to many of you who have understood the enormity of what the school is facing. Many of you have listened to the Government's advice that it is safer for children to stay at home and by taking this action you are allowing Elms Bank staff more opportunity to provide a service for the keyworkers in our school community.

The Government says, 'special schools, colleges and local authorities are advised to make case by case basis assessments of the health and safeguarding considerations of pupils and students on an education, health and care (EHC) plan. For some, they will be safer in an education provision. For others, they will be safer at home. We trust leaders and parents to make these decisions and will support them as required.'

We have welcomed this advice and made our decisions for our provision for next week based on this. Therefore, Elms Bank will operate from 8.50am to 3.15pm, however this will not be an educational offer, but a provision that maintains the care of students, as outlined by the Government. We will not be offering breakfast club or any after school clubs. Children attending will need to arrive for 8.50am.

Changes to our provision:

- Elms Bank will not offer an educationally based curriculum, but child care provision, until all schools are fully open. Currently, the Government have not placed a time frame on this.
- Our Thrive pathway will close. This pathway is for children with underlying medical conditions including asthma for whom any minor infection can cause extreme respiratory illness. These are the children who are at very high risk in the current climate and who are best cared for at home.
- Children across all pathways who also have underlying medical conditions including asthma are encouraged to stay at home. Many of these children are staying at home due to them also being at high risk in the current situation.
- *Children attending will not be required to wear school uniform, as we are not offering formal education.*
- Our provision offer will be reviewed each day, and in the event the staffing levels present a Health and Safety risk, part, or all of the provision will close. Parents accessing the provision will need to respond to this. Where possible, key workers' children will be prioritised in this situation.



- Groups in the provision will be led by a mixture of staff members within the school. For our Specialist Provision students, familiar staffing will be prioritised, where possible.



Parents who have selected to self-isolate, and are currently seeing this as a 12 week period, will need to self-isolate until all schools across the country are fully open. Elms Bank has provided initial homework packs for all these students and will provide additional work through emailing students directly. Information about accessing this email was sent out earlier this week, but it is also attached to this letter if you are in this category. Additionally, Elms Bank has provided a list of online learning platforms for parents to access on our website. You can access this via: Key Information/Corona Virus Update. Elms Bank has no capacity to provide provision for these children in the forth coming weeks, as all our resources are going into providing for our community who are key workers or need our support.

Attached to this letter is confirmation of what provision the school can agree to offer on Monday 23rd March 2020. Please note that this will be reviewed and where staffing shortages increase, this may be withdrawn as previously stated.

Thank you for your continued support,

Kind Regards,

Orienne Langley-Sadler
Headteacher



Ripon Avenue, Whitefield, Manchester M45 8PJ



0161 766 1597



enquiries@elmsbank.co.uk



www.elmsbank.co.uk

Headteacher: Orienne Langley-Sadler



ElmsBank

From our school records we note that you have either decided to stay at home or you have decided to self-isolate until all schools across the country are fully open.

To support you in this an initial homework pack has been sent home with your child and/or emailed work to your child's email address. We have also placed a list of online learning platforms for parents to access on our website. You can access this via: key Information / Corona Virus Update.

Also on our website is a list of useful contacts in case parents feel that they need wider support.

We will be contacting you throughout the weeks to ensure your child is continuing to do well and will assist you as much as we can remotely until all schools are fully open.



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Access to pupils email

Please goto www.office.com

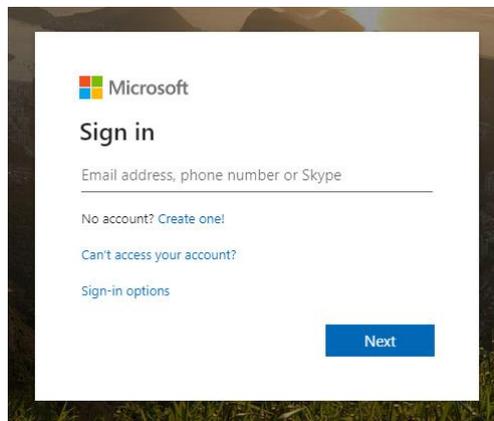


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