Dear Parent/Guardian

We hope that you are staying safe and managing in what is a very unsettling time. We have so enjoyed seeing the photos that you have been sending in of you and your children learning at home. All the staff are thinking about you and we are all missing the children very much. We are reassessing daily what we should be doing and trying to stay informed about the advice from the government. We will be placing a link on the website for you to read the up to date advice.

I have picked out the main statements that we are working from:-

'Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home. Schools, colleges, other training providers and local authorities will need to consider the needs of all children and young people with an EHC plan, alongside the views of their parents, and make a risk assessment for each child or young person'

'children and young people whose needs can be met at home, namely those who are not receiving personal care from their educational setting, or whose limited need for personal care can be met in their family home'

'We know that this is a worrying time for parents and for staff working with children and young people with complex needs. It is important that decisions are made based on risk assessments – for both the child and for the educational setting – and are informed by the latest public health and medical advice and guidance available'

We have followed these guidelines and completed risk assessments for every child in school. When we begin to consider reopening school, we will not be planning to open to all pupils straight away. We will follow the guidelines and open initially to those pupils whose education is being affected most significantly by not being in school, however this would be in consultation with the parents and would also have to consider the health conditions of each child, and how at risk they maybe from the health prospective. I am also trying to ensure the safety of my staff, your families and the families of our staff. We will ensure that we get the pupils back as soon as it is safe to do so.

We will continue to do our best to support you in the meantime with ideas on the website, weekly contact and keeping you up to date with what is happening. Please feel free to contact your class lead at any other time if you are concerned or if we can help in any way.

Stay safe and stay at home

Kind Regards

Penny Derries

Penelope.derries@thegrove.northumberland.sch.uk