

Never look down on anybody unless you are helping him up. Jesse Jackson

## Barley Lane School

*Friendship, Optimism, Hardwork*

23rd March 2020

### **Barley Lane School is still open**

Dear Parents and Carers and Colleagues,

I wrote to you recently acknowledging work is ongoing between central and local government and schools and that things could and no doubt would change and that I would update you as they did.

It remains the case that; *“if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be”*

The latest advice we have received is *“that those with an EHC plan should be risk-assessed by their school/college in consultation with the local authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school/college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. **Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home”***

A number of parents have already withdrawn their children or expressed their wish to do so and we will be in touch with you soon to understand and note your feelings and preferences alongside our own input and that of the local authority.

Some children then will be in school and others at home. We appreciate things change and some children might return to school at some point and others go home and “risk assess” just means what we all agree is best and safest for the child or young person and his family.

For those at home we will stay in regular contact to work out how best to help and support you and to be reassured folk are okay; that might include alerting others who can help too.

For those who have free school meals our bursar, Dan Causon, is working out the best ways to get vouchers to those of you at home and it would be helpful if you emailed Dan because having families all over Devon is creating some challenges for him [D.causon@barleylane.devon.sch.uk](mailto:D.causon@barleylane.devon.sch.uk)

My contact details are below and please get in touch if you need to.

Yours sincerely,

*Michael MacCourt*