

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

Barley Lane School

Friendship, Optimism, Hardwork

25th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers and Colleagues,

The school effectively closed yesterday and this decision was and is informed by a number of things:

- The notion that *“if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be”* and that many *“children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home”*;
- The growing health crisis and the need for urgent and greater social distancing for all of us now and in the weeks ahead;
- Advice and guidance from those managing the challenges at a strategic level;
- The growing number of staff off-sick and self-isolating.

It is safer for the great majority of children and young people to be at home at this time and it contributes to the safety of everyone as we all change our behaviours, as we must, and stay at home.

There will be and are exceptions for example the children of key-workers and those children who are at serious risk will come to school

Some staff will be in school with many working from home and teachers have been and will be sharing work packs and internet links and also checking in to see how the children are doing.

We will constantly review the closure and post updates.

This national emergency demands we put people’s health first and staying at home for everyone at this time is critical to that effort to protect the NHS and to save lives.

Many thanks for your contribution to this effort to keep others safe.

Yours sincerely,

Michael MacCourt