

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

Barley Lane School

Friendship, Optimism, Hardwork

22nd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers and Colleagues,

I hope you are all safe and well in these strange and worrying times.

I do have to navigate some potentially difficult things in this letter to you.

Our children all have EHCPs so all of them in an ideal world should be in school but the world sadly is very far from ideal right now and we also know government guidance is clear many are safer at home at this time.

We have been and remain open to our vulnerable children and those whose parents and carers are key-workers and we are trying to slowly and safely increase pupil numbers as we can but please remember:

- The limits of the school buildings: we have to maintain social distancing in school and keep the children attending and the staff working safe too;
- We have fewer staff because a significant number of colleagues are self-isolating long term to keep them or loved ones safe.

We understand for all our children and young people still at home and their families it is tough but we can only increase numbers slowly and carefully and bit by bit and try too to reliably discern where challenges and needs are greatest?

Please consider then before you seek a place in school in the days and weeks ahead whilst we wait to return to something approaching “normal” (things will I know never be the same) the level of challenge and risk you are facing and its impact on the child or young person because it must be those in genuine need we accommodate first not those who are most active and vocal in seeking a place.

It must be the needs of the child or young person that are paramount and so put first not those of the parent or carer.

Yours sincerely,

Michael MacCourt