



23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have managed to enjoy the weather we have been having despite these really difficult times. There has been a lot of speculation in the press about when schools will reopen, but until the Government formally announces a date when it is safe for children and staff to return, we should all prepare for a few more weeks yet! Even then, we will have to carefully plan a possible phased return to ensure that there isn't a second peak of the virus. We will also have to look at our staffing to make sure we have safe staffing levels. We have shielded staff, vulnerable staff and staff suffering from symptoms; as well as looking after family members. Parents who decide not to send their children back straight away due to the child's underlying health conditions or worries about the virus will not be penalised in any way. These are worrying times and I will do everything in my power to support you.

I know at this time of the year parents start worrying about who their child's teacher in September is going to be and I always say that until the teacher resignation deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> May I cannot tell you until after this date, because it could all change. Dependent on how long we are operating as a virtual school, we are looking at trying to keep staffing roughly the same as this year. Obviously, this cannot be the case everywhere as I have a number of staff going on maternity leave, returning from maternity leave, new children starting etc etc BUT we will try and make September as smooth as possible for everyone. *Hopefully* we will be back in good time for transitions in July and holiday club in August – fingers crossed!!!!

Please remember if you are struggling in anyway or need any help, talk to your class teacher and we will try and help. We are in this together.

The Worcestershire Here 2 Help website is full of useful information to help during the COVID19 pandemic. <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help>



## Are you a parent or a carer in Worcestershire?

### Do you have children with additional needs or communication difficulties?

It is a difficult time for everyone. As adults it is difficult for us to take in all of the information and change that Covid-19 has caused in our lives.

It is even harder to help children and young people cope with all the uncertainties and disruption. Children who are feeling anxious and unsettled often show this in many different ways, including through their behaviour or communication.

We are here to help you.

You can email us for support - one of our team will call you back.

You can find resources related to Covid-19 on our website below. We are adding new resources every week.



Follow us on Facebook : Worcestershire Speech and Language Therapy

Find us on Twitter @SLT\_Worcs

Website: <http://www.hacw.nhs.uk/sltcovid19>

Email: [WHCNHS.sltcovid19@nhs.net](mailto:WHCNHS.sltcovid19@nhs.net)

## Getting through COVID-19



We have carried out risk assessments on all our children for the Local Authority and continue to support families of critical workers and the very vulnerable children. I thank the families and staff for their continued support and making it a little bit easier to get through this. Remember to keep checking our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5qshpb6v7Z001TSs6lhmBQ/videos>



Stay safe and remember

Kind regards,

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