

**23 March 2020, 9.00pm.**

Dear parents/carers,

We are very sorry for all the communication and all the mixed messages. I understand that this is an extremely worrying time for all. We recognise how important Portesbery is to our students and their families and we have tried so hard to provide some stability during this difficult time.

Government guidance is changing rapidly but it is finally becoming clearer the role we have as a school. We have now been given clear guidelines to only provide a school place for:

- **children of critical workers**
- **vulnerable children who would be safer at school, than at home**

Please do see the link below that helps to clarify the guidance and answers many questions:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

All teachers and senior leaders today have risk-assessed every individual student in the school and we have identified the small group that meet the above criteria. The Government are now clear that many children and young people with EHCPs can safely remain at home.

The overriding principle is that **every child who can be safely cared for at home should be**. It is clear that preservation of life has to be our first consideration.

We are sorry that we are not able to provide a place for your child at this time, and as a school, we have made every effort. We have liaised closely with all other special schools in Surrey and we are all interpreting the guidance in the same way.

We will remain in contact with you, our teachers will provide weekly emails and do ask if you feel we can help in any way. We are all very keen to support our whole community in any way we can and will be looking at all options available.

Please do not hesitate to email me on [nathan.aspinall@portesbery.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:nathan.aspinall@portesbery.surrey.sch.uk)

Kind Regards

*Nathan*

**- Our School Values -**



**Respect**



**Collaboration**



**Commitment**