

Dear parents and carers,

No doubt you will all be aware of the government announcement earlier this evening that all schools will be closed from tomorrow with the exception of children of key workers and vulnerable pupils. We did not have access to this information any earlier than yourselves and there is currently no specific advice or guidance available for special schools. We appreciate this is an extremely anxious and difficult time with much uncertainty and we wish to support all of our families in the best way possible.

We have already offered flexibility around attendance this week in line with guidance to support setting up our testing program and some of you have decided to keep your child at home. We appreciate how important it is for our pupils to have the support, nurture and structure of school, particularly during a national lockdown when other support or favourite activities are not available to them. We will remain open tomorrow but continue to be flexible if you are concerned about sending your child into school. We ask for your understanding that some of our staff will now be faced with unexpected childcare issues due to the immediate closure of schools and this may affect our provision until arrangements can be made. To help with our staffing arrangements, please email Jude (head@deebanks.cheshire.sch.uk) to let us know if you have decided not to send your child in tomorrow.

We thank you for your patience as this will be an evolving situation and we hope to continue to adapt to the needs of our families as we did throughout the first lockdown in March. We will be in touch to speak with you all as soon as we have more information which we hope will be tomorrow.

Best wishes