

SECAT House, Delaware Road
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CEO: Mrs Ruth Brock

3rd April 2020

Dear Parents

Firstly, I would like to reiterate my thanks to you all for taking seriously the government's advice to keep as many of your children at home during this current crisis. The numbers of children coming into school have dropped dramatically because you have managed to make alternative arrangements for their care. Where you have not, we have been pleased to accommodate your children and our staff have provided the children with many exciting and stimulating activities to do, many of which mirror those sent home for children to do with you.

I am delighted and humbled that so many of you have been in touch, personally, to thank me, the central SECAT Team and headteachers/senior leaders/teachers and support staff for, as one parent said *'going the extra mile'* for your children. You have also commented on the quality and amount of *'excellent communication coming from everyone that has kept us really well informed'*, quoted from another parent which mirrored several that have spoken to us on the telephone or in emails. That certainly was and always is, our intention.

At a time when the situation is tough for everyone – be they at home, at work or at school – it can be easy to be downhearted or think only of oneself. Not a bit of it! The whole SECAT Community has pulled together, *'stepped up to the plate'* (as another parent stated) and has shown what being part of this community is all about. I thank you for that, and actually never doubted it despite some people's opinion of our community. Some parents have asked if they can share their good wishes and thanks to all of SECAT staff, with the local media. I cannot stop you doing that; but be mindful that so much reported is often not what was intended or even said.

Having tracked carefully the numbers of children attending the 6 schools recently, we collectively made a decision to make **two HUBS for after the Easter holidays** – one for Primary and one for Secondary. The majority of the 50 or so children taking up the offer have been those of key workers. We want to continue to support that group and any of the vulnerable children who have been unable to remain at home.

From April 20th, Richmond Avenue Primary School and Nursery will be the HUB for key workers' children and those children who are vulnerable from all of the primary schools. Some 30 – 35 children have been accessing our provisions to date. The kitchen at Richmond is one that is able to be open and staffed adequately which was a primary consideration for the choice of Richmond as the of HUB. Shoeburyness High School will remain as the secondary HUB – and actually will also be providing a different offer for key workers' children, as the government requested, akin to Holiday Club and during the Easter Break – excluding Good Friday and Easter Monday.

Southend East Community Academy Trust is a company registered in England and Wales 7825856.
Registered Office: Delaware Road, Shoeburyness, Essex, SS3 9NP

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"Strong Partnerships, Strong Community, Strong Schools"

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Whilst at the Primary Hub, if your child / children would like school dinners, then there will be hot food available. Just let the staff on the gate know that your child will need a hot lunch when coming into the school in the mornings. (The menu will be on the gates to the school each week for parents to review). Details on paying for meals, if applicable, will be given to you at Richmond.

Children will continue to be taught in their **school groups with staff from their own schools**, everyone observing the stringent social-distancing rules. Children should wear their school uniform at all times. As children arrive they will be directed to the named classrooms by the staff with whom they are familiar.

As always, we repeat the government's statement; **if you can accommodate your children at home, this is undoubtedly the safest place for them to be at this time.**

We are now approaching the end of the Spring term in a somewhat different way than any of us could have anticipated or even imagined in our wildest dreams.

However, as Easter approaches I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful family time and to those who celebrate, a good Easter.

With best wishes

Ruth Brock

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CEO

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