



7th September 2023

Dear Family

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you all for your support through the disruption and uncertainty over the last week which has led us to make alternative plans for the operational running of the school. Unsurprisingly, we have had much media coverage at a national level and, as embarrassing as it is to keep putting myself out there, I hope you can understand that I have chosen to use this platform and interest in our school to help us to put more pressure on the DfE to act more rapidly so that we are able to have all of our learners back in school within the shortest time frame possible. It would be lovely if DfE would finally build us a well overdue and well-deserved new school, which I am pushing for, but the most immediate target is to get all children back on site.

I am pleased to say that this approach has been working and we have been classed by the DfE and Local Authority as a national priority school. I was also contacted by an organisation that provides modular building solutions who had seen the press coverage and wanted to help. This was a real philanthropic and altruistic gesture from a company with real values and a desire to not just focus on profit, and was the best lead I had to potentially solve the whole problem. As I write to you, they are preparing a solution that can begin installation almost immediately. I expect it to take around two weeks to install the additional 22 classrooms we need, but we will keep opening to further cohorts as soon as space becomes available.

In my last letter I shared our mitigation approach with you:

- Short term mitigation will be a disruption arising from a partial closure followed by remote and blended learning (combination of in school and remote using iPads and video conferencing - similar to Covid provision)
- Medium term mitigation will be to source additional teaching spaces in the form of portacabins or off-site provision along with the transportation needed to access it.
- Long term mitigation will be to complete a series of structural support works in the affected classrooms and phase their opening once each is complete.

I shall update you next week regarding the long-term plan.

Short Term Mitigation

Timetable to Half Term

We have constructed a rota that works best for all learners with regards to their timetable for the remainder of the half term. Please bear in mind that we have a two-week timetable and have constructed the rota to try and ensure the best possible combinations of contact time, taking into account the curriculum. Below is an overview of who will be physically in school and who will be working remotely at any given time. This programme is, however, subject to constant review as we intend to bring further learners in as and when we are able. We are aiming to have further solutions in place by Week 5.

Week A (Week 3)	Cohorts in School	Cohorts Remote Learning
18 th September	7,10,11	8, 9
19 th September	7,10,11	8, 9
20 th September	7,10,11	8, 9
21 st September	7,10,11	8, 9
22 nd September	7,10,11	8, 9

Headteacher: James Saunders MBA

Honywood School Westfield Drive Coggeshall Essex CO6 1PZ. Tel: 01376 561231 email: admin@honywoodschool.com

Honywood Community Science School is part of the Saffron Academy Trust, a Company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales.

No. 7618351 Registered Office: Audley End Road, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4UH

Week B (Week 4)	Cohorts in School	Cohorts Remote Learning
25 th September	7,8,9	10, 11
26 th September	7,8,9	10, 11
27 th September	7,8,9	10, 11
28 th September	7,8,9	10, 11
29 th September	7,8,9	10, 11

Week A (Week 5)	Cohorts in School	Cohorts Remote Learning
2 nd October	7,8,9	10, 11
3 rd October	7,8,9	10, 11
4 th October	7,8,9	10, 11
5 th October	7,8,9	10, 11
6 th October	NPD	

Week B (Week 6)	Cohorts in School	Cohorts Remote Learning
9 th October	9,10,11	7, 8
10 th October	9,10,11	7, 8
11 th October	9,10,11	7, 8
12 th October	9,10,11	7, 8
13 th October	9,10,11	7, 8

Week A (Week 7)	Cohorts in School	Cohorts Remote Learning
16 th October	8,10,11	7, 9
17 th October	8,10,11	7, 9
18 th October	8,10,11	7, 9
19 th October	8,10,11	7, 9
20 th October	8,10,11	7, 9

The half term originally had 31 days of learning planned. This mitigation plan ensures that all learners will have more than 50% of their time in school.

I am sure you will appreciate that different parents of learners in different cohorts will have competing priorities, compounded by the complexities of managing work and family commitments. We have tried our best to be as equitable as possible taking into account our expertise and knowledge of the timetable. The changing ebb and flow of a school year means there are different priorities at different times. For example:

- C8 Guided Choices
- C10/11 Mocks
- Transition points
- Final year
- C9 starting their GCSE's
- Scheduled controlled assessments
- School calendar

We take our core values seriously, especially trust. We are asking you to have faith and trust and decision - we discuss things collectively as a team and all aspects are weighed up to ensure the most equitable route is taken to ensure our core value of equity is not lost - as highlighted by the ebb and flow of priorities

Parental Support for Remote Learning

We have been contacted by many local establishments who have offered use of spaces. It is our intention to set up a remote learning provision that utilises these spaces. This would allow learners to be supervised for the day by Honywood staff in an off-site setting. The aim of this provision would be to support those families who, for whatever reason, are unable to have children at home during the remote learning phases. Naturally, we must ensure safeguarding is prioritised and that the staffing does not impact delivery of the curriculum. We have begun planning for this and will share more details next week with the aim of starting during Week 4 - 25th September.

Medium Term Mitigation

As I stated above, I have been contacted by an organisation that can provide modular buildings. I have also managed to find some other suppliers that can also provide structures - they are all providing me with prices currently. After becoming frustrated with the pace of the DfE decision making process, I have begun to work with the Local Authority who are much more proactive. Therefore, they will be supporting the costs of this project and will seek out reimbursement from the DfE so we can concentrate on getting the school functional. I have had confirmation from the Local Authority that they are happy to support us and as soon as I receive costs, they will sign them off.

Once this happens, we can begin building a new temporary 'mini school' on the field. I was hoping to provide you with a more detailed timeline on the construction of this as I am expecting the costs to arrive by email any moment. However, my priority is to get this communication out to you.

As soon as I have confirmation I shall let you know.

Community Support - How YOU can Help!

I would like to thank the many members of our community for their kind offers of support in the form of alternative accommodation such as marquees, tents, buildings and services. We are maintaining a database of these and will be looking at them collectively to maximise their usefulness.

I met with a small group of parents on Tuesday evening to discuss how the community could support us through this crisis. We shared ideas and the priorities that could best support us.

Key things we agreed would be helpful are:

- Access to alternative venues
- Supplies to support mobile teaching and the logistics of teaching in a different class each day; for example, mobile storage

- Fundraising for additional items needed to facilitate our remote teaching plan; for example: call centre style headphones for staff to teach as they are likely to be all in one room
- Transportation; minibus or bus access to get children to and from alternative settings

Go Fund Me

I would like to thank our parent group for setting up a GoFundMe page to help us to access resources - <https://www.gofundme.com/f/honywood-school-support> If you have skills, expertise or contacts and wish to contribute to the parent community group then please contact Mrs Frogley - cfrogley@honywoodschoo.com At the very least, there will come a time when we have to move chairs and tables into 22 new rooms on the field and a few pairs of hands would certainly be useful!

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you for your understanding and patience. I am sorry that I have not written to you sooner. I would like to assure you that I am determined to do all I can to get all our learners back to school as soon as possible and I have been focusing all my energies on this mission. I would also like to extend my thanks to all staff for ensuring that we are able to operate during these testing times. For now, bear with us. We are on the precipice of solving this crisis.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'James Saunders', written in a cursive style.

James Saunders