**Children’s Therapies Service**

**Speech and Language Therapy**

Gravesham Community Hospital

Bath Street

Gravesend

Kent

DA11 0DG

Telephone: 01474 360 685

Web: [www.kentcht.nhs.uk](http://www.kentcht.nhs.uk)

25th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer(s),

I am writing to inform you about the adaptations we have had to make to the service in term 1.  Covid-19 continues to have a significant impact on how Health services are working.  The plan for term 1 is that we will continue to work largely remotely: offering telephone consultations, completing virtual appointments, reviewing and updating therapy plans, training school staff and liaising with school staff and families.

We are close to being able to re-open clinics where we'll be able to invite some children into clinic for face to face assessment sessions (this will be an option for children for whom virtual support has not been successful/is not possible). Therapists will be required to wear full PPE for the clinic appointments (plastic apron, gloves, mask and visor), the clinic room will contain the bare essentials (table and chairs) and will be sanitised between appointments.  As a Speech and Language Therapist the wearing of a face mask obviously restricts what we can achieve within sessions, for example, the types of assessments we can undertake and the effect on social interaction and our ability to build rapport with the child. However, I will do my best for each child given the circumstances.

School visits would remain the least favoured option for the time being.  However, if I cannot gather the information needed virtually or via a clinic appointment I may able to come into school to complete an assessment.  This would be very much on a case by case basis, coming into school just to do a specific assessment rather than staying for the day, and again I would have to wear full PPE.

I appreciate that working remotely is not ideal, and it is not my first choice of delivery model, but we're living in unprecedented times.  As a Speech and Language Therapist working in the NHS I have to follow the NHS guidelines. When I receive any further updates I will endeavour to keep you informed.

Yours faithfully,



### Hannah Price

Speech and Language Therapist

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust