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Our ref	
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A message to School SENCOs from the Physical Impairment Team during the Covid-19 pandemic

This message is for mainstream school SENCOs who have on roll a child with a physical impairment and who were being supported by the Physical Needs Advisor (Lucy Daullah) prior to the lockdown/ school closures.

- Parents with children with disabilities are likely to have even greater concern for their child's health and for the health of other family members during the current pandemic. Please consider contacting them to find out how they are coping and how they are finding the level and type of work being provided/ set by teachers. Agree a review date to call again to check again how it's going.
- Some families will find the physical demands of caring for their disabled child at home 24-7 extremely challenging particularly if they are the sole carer, if they are looking after other children, are self-isolating or unwell. Shopping for essentials and getting hold of medicines may be very difficult. Please consider ringing them to check they have the help they need.
- Important message regarding equipment: All electrical equipment must be left plugged in (charging). This includes any electrically powered equipment such as specialist seating, changing beds and standing frames. Batteries that run flat will deem the equipment unusable when the child returns to school and resulting in costly battery replacements. Your school will be expected to pay for the cost of replacement batteries if this advice has not been followed.
- Some Paediatric Occupational Therapists and physiotherapists (those who work for the Derbyshire Healthcare Foundation Trust) have been redeployed. The team phone for the DHFT OTs is 03001 234 586 (option 2 and then option 5)

If you have any concerns or queries about a child with physical impairment in your school you can contact the team in the usual way by email or by phone directly to the worker alternatively contact us on stepsadmin@derby.gov.uk or 01332 641400.

