

Monday 11th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Quick update from me this afternoon. We continue to stay open for children of critical workers for the remainder of this week. Unfortunately, due to staff isolation it has not been possible to open Nursery or the After-School Club today or for the rest of the week. **Breakfast Club does remain open.**

The form for next week's critical worker attendance is available here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1hqheW53X2RhDaG8geXU_hkRiTqg9HgUjnta0FSr872o/edit

Please can I ask that you complete this in a timely fashion so that I can allocate staff accordingly. **Ideally could all requests be completed by 5pm on Thursday 14th January.** Thank you and we do appreciate that this is not possible for some critical workers as we are coping from one day to the next. Can I also ask that you complete a separate form for each child who is coming to school. In other words if three children are coming to school you need to complete three forms.

As stated in Government guidance, during this period of national lockdown, schools and colleges should only allow vulnerable children and the children of critical workers to attend school.

The government has stated that schools have not suddenly become unsafe but limiting the number of children and students who attend them is essential to curb the escalating cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) throughout the country and prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed.

The definition of the term critical worker in the latest guidance is as follows, *Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.*

As has always been the case throughout the fight against COVID, the safety of our pupils and staff is our first priority and we feel that we have always done, and continue to do, everything possible to prevent the spread and reduce transmission between homes and families. The number of pupils currently attending school is concerning and we would ask you to be responsible and, if it is at all possible, to try and find an alternative that would be safer for yourself and your child.

Please also consider the following in line with government advice:

- Can you work from home?
- Can you find alternative times to work outside of the school day?
- Do you have other family members who are not in a vulnerable category and can care for your child which will support social distancing for children?
- Do you need childcare everyday? Only use the provision when you really need to.

Working together to be the best we can

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Our risk assessments and procedures continue to be followed robustly and please be aware that our usual track and trace procedures that operate in the school will be in place. This means that there is a potential that should a child or staff member test positive – self isolation advice would need to be given to all positive contacts. This may mean some bubble closures.

As we have seen over the weekend this is a real situation and regrettably is likely to repeat as the latest strain of the virus is highly transmissible.

A reminder that the form can be found by clicking here;

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1hqheW53X2RhDaG8geXU_hkRiTqg9HgUjnta0FSr872o/edit

Thank you for your continued support of the school and for helping us to keep everyone safe at this time.

Warmest wishes

Mr Geaves

Head Teacher

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