

Tues 12th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The government has clarified the guidance on attending school in recent briefings and interviews and has stated that the expectation is that, even if you have a critical worker in your family, you must keep your children home if you can.

'If you're a key worker and your partner doesn't work then you shouldn't be sending your child to school'

This clarification means that you should only use us if you have no other option.

You will be aware of rising numbers in schools, we do have a large number of children currently in school compared with lockdown one, some of which are high risk of spreading the virus as their parents are front line NHS workers. Our priority is keeping everyone as safe as possible, all the children in school and their families and all the staff in school and their families. Obviously the more children we have in school the greater the risk of transmission, some days we have 50% of the children in school.

One way the large amount of children in school affects us is that it becomes impossible to socially distance. That means that if we were to get a case in a class, we would have to close the entire bubble. That would knock out all the children of critical workers and keep those critical workers at home. The fewer who are in school, the easier it is for us to be sure that children keep their distance in the classroom.

If numbers stay too high we will also have to look again at the numbers of children who are in school due to being vulnerable (for a range of reasons) and decide if this needs reducing.

In order to keep those children and staff in school as safe as possible as I have mentioned before please do adhere closely to all Government guidance, not mixing with others unless allowed to do so, only having one child care/support bubble no more etc, in order to contain the spread of the virus as much as possible. All staff are in school and working so hard to support all the children in school and those at home and doing it with a smile and their normal commitment and enthusiasm but they are rightly anxious for their safety and their families that they are going home to each night, I therefore want to do all I can to keep them safe as well as keeping the children we have in school safe.

We are absolutely here for you if you need us and I don't want critical workers not doing their jobs in full for fear of putting pressure on the school. If you absolutely need us, absolutely use us.

If you feel that you can work with us by amending your current requirements to help to reduce the number of children in school and keep everyone as safe as we can, please [get in touch](#) with us.

Please do take care, keep safe and get in touch if there is anything we can do to help.



Karen Reeves (Headteacher)