

Thursday 21 January 2021

Dear Parents,

We want to thank you for your patience and understanding at this unprecedented time. We are deeply sorry that current restrictions mean we are unable to welcome all pupils in school, however it is vital that we support the community in trying to curb the rise in Coronavirus cases.

Currently, the guidance states that, "Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required." and the government is now urging parents who are critical workers to keep their children home if they can.

Since last March we have continually endeavoured to support the families of critical workers and vulnerable children. As always, we want to be able to provide the very best learning opportunities for pupils both in and out of school that we can. This becomes increasingly challenging if more teachers are required to return to classes to support an increase in the number of pupils attending school. This then impacts on the time available to develop remote learning resources.

The government's decision to close schools was based upon helping to substantially reduce contact between people and therefore help reduce the infection rate of COVID-19 across the community. We have seen an increase in number of key worker children attending school during this third lockdown. **The number of children attending school has risen from 83 on January 5 to 122 on January 20.** We appreciate that this is a result of more places of business remaining open this time. We wish to make you aware of this because if numbers attending school continue to rise, this may potentially impact on what we are able to provide, both within school and via remote learning.

The challenge of trying to home school while working as a parent are unfathomable and cannot be underestimated by anyone. We are grateful for the efforts you are all making and the teachers are delighted with the work that has been returned from home. We understand that some days will be easier than others and appreciate that the challenges at home mean that every piece of work completed is an achievement. We are delighted to receive all work in order to feedback and monitor progress.

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Principal - Tony Head
Executive Head - Amanda Parry

We would ask you all to consider, very carefully, whether or not your children need to be in school at this time. The government are asking for us all to “Stay at home where possible”. This is our best chance of reducing the numbers of infections, supporting the critically vulnerable health, protecting our families at home and getting back to a place where all our children can return to school as soon as possible.

If you are in a position to keep your children at home, and have access to remote learning, then we would ask for your support at this time to ensure we can offer places to those most at need.

As always, we thank you for all your support and patience and we truly look forward to being able to welcome you all back as soon as possible.

Yours Sincerely,

Tony Head
(Principal)

