

Wednesday 6th January 2021.

Important Information Regarding School Provision for children of Critical Workers and those children who may be vulnerable.

Dear Parent/ Carers,

May I firstly, thank you all for your support during this second period of school provision for selected groups of children.

 I would like to wish all families of children who have not been in school from Monday my very best wishes.

To ensure all parents and carers are clear on the government advice: :https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision

After you have read the advice there is some information that I would like to make you aware of that is **specific to our school circumstances** as a number of staff are unable to work in school due to the potential impact of COVID 19 and therefore the staff team able to be on school site is now extremely depleted.

Please remember that the current advice is that if you are able to look after your child at home they should stay at home.The government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

In order to keep the children and our staff safe we are limiting the number of children in our Early Years Unit to and ideal limit of **8 children and** **absolutely no more than 10 in a session** together at any one time.

As of January 2021 there will be no Community Powers provision during the period of ‘lockdown’. Nursery hours remain the same as before. Please ensure you drop off and pick up your child at the correct times.

We may only be able to offer 15 hours nursery provision even if your child is entitled to 30 hours provision and this may be EITHER a morning OR afternoon place.

For the children in Early Years and the rest of the school, priority will be given to:

1.Families which have both parents who are critical workers AND children who I have identified as vulnerable using the criteria given.

2. Families whose parents are both working (please give details of both jobs to me) and one of those parents is a critical worker.

3. Only if spaces are left will a place be given to families who have one parent who is a critical worker, and the other parent is able to work from home while caring for their children.

We will start providing education for critical worker children on a full-time basis and this will be expected. However, if our spaces become limited, we may only be able to accommodate your child on the days as a critical worker you are working.

If we have to provide a place for a vulnerable child or a family whose both parents are critical workers they will take priority at any time and will take the place of children who are not at this top priority even if they are currently in school.

If we are unable to safely staff the school at any time you will be informed using our usual school closure procedures.

In conclusion, we would like you to support us in keeping our school safe, operational and open by following these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
3. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

My very best regards,

Belinda Athey – Headteacher.