

Thursday 14 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we continue to react to rising number of infections and deaths in the media, please can we once again draw your attention to the Government guidance:

“parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.”

This week particularly, there has been media coverage of people gloating that they have managed to ‘wangle’ Critical Worker status. Whilst at Abbots Green, we know our relationships with parents are transparent and respectful, we are also all aware that almost any job can be linked into one of those categories to obtain a place in school. As we manage educating children at home and at school, we simply cannot provide places for everyone with a job on the published list, or for those with just one parent working.

If your child has a place in school, but you are working from home, we strongly recommend that this is the safest place for them and to control the spread of the virus. There have been incidents this week where the children have told us that they are in school because they are giving their parents a rest – please note that this is not what Critical Worker provision is for during these challenging times when our staff too, continue to juggle their own commitments.

As we continue to see the number of Covid cases rise, we desperately want to keep our bubbles open so that we are able to support our parents, particularly those that are working for the NHS. The more children that we have in each bubble, the higher the risk and greater the chance of it closing if a positive case occurs.

As we learn more and more about how the virus spreads, we have to bear in mind that even if we have already had it, we may still be able to pass it on to others. We have already had a large number of staff that have contracted the virus however, as the media have shared today, the virus will continue to spread amongst us all.

We are very aware that most of the children in school at the moment are here because there is no other option, and they genuinely qualify for Critical Worker provision - we are proud that we are able to support those families and we have welcomed their positive feedback during this time.



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Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you feel that you are now able to reconsider your need for the provision or the days that you are currently accessing to keep our staff and pupils as safe as possible.

At this critical time, sending your child into school should be an absolute last resort. Instead, we must strive to develop our remote learning so that learning from home is simplistic and explicit for all - further details of this will be shared tomorrow.

Whether children are at home or in school, we will continue to support in every way that we possibly can.

Many thanks for your support during this time.

Mrs A Morrison



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