

Parent update 1.11.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well.

Keyworker places – There has been a great deal of coverage in the media about this. The reason schools are closed to all but essential workers is to reduce transmission of the virus in our communities. All children should stay at home if possible. We can provide places to those with absolutely no option but to send their children to school and I believe we have covered those requests already.

Last Wednesday, I notified all parents via the website that we were at capacity with critical worker places.

The media updated on Friday evening that parents should keep their children at home if at all possible <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/jan/09/school-guidance-for-children-of-key-workers-changes-again>

The government issued further guidance on Friday instructing all families that even critical workers' children should be at home, if there is someone at home to support them. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

For some reason, we are continuing to receive requests and I wonder if it is because some families are finding the home schooling difficult? As in every area of life, new things are a challenge and I would ask that you persevere. Whilst you worry that the children are missing out on school, they are learning more than we realise about kindness, tolerance, empathy and patience (regarding other people's workloads / pressures) as you model this when supporting their learning.

Contact with teachers – Teachers will be ringing all children who have not yet logged in to Google Classroom to help them with this. (Please note these may be from a "Private Number.")

Teachers will also be setting up two "Google Meets" per week for face to face contact with the children (the links will appear as assignments for your child) . This will not be direct teaching but an opportunity for the children to ask questions and for them to feel connected with school. If for whatever reason, a child can't attend a Google Meet (maybe a parent is using the laptop for work or you have gone out for a walk), then they can always join the meeting the next time.

Click here for our code of conduct for Google Meet sessions.

Click here for instructions of how to upload photos of work to show the teachers.

From a laptop <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SG0PCn47f28>

From a phone / ipad / tablet <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SG0PCn47f28>

If your child is doing work that you have set outside of the Google Assignments, we please upload photographs via the method above with a note of what it is.

Please remember that there has never been a time like this before, when the children are back in school we will fill gaps in their learning. Please read the document linked here for a view on the things that our children can gain during this time.

With love and prayers,