

Parent update 28.1.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well and bearing up under these very difficult circumstances. We are doing our very best to support you as well as we can.

**Key worker places in school** – as I said in my parent update 20 1.1.21; The government has directed that everyone who can stay at home, should stay at home. This includes children of keyworker parents. I quote the latest guidance here... the end of the sentence is the key point.

Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, **but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.**

I have been directed to prioritise school places in the following order:

1. Vulnerable children with a social worker
2. Vulnerable children without a social worker
3. Children with EHC plans
4. Children of NHS staff and teachers

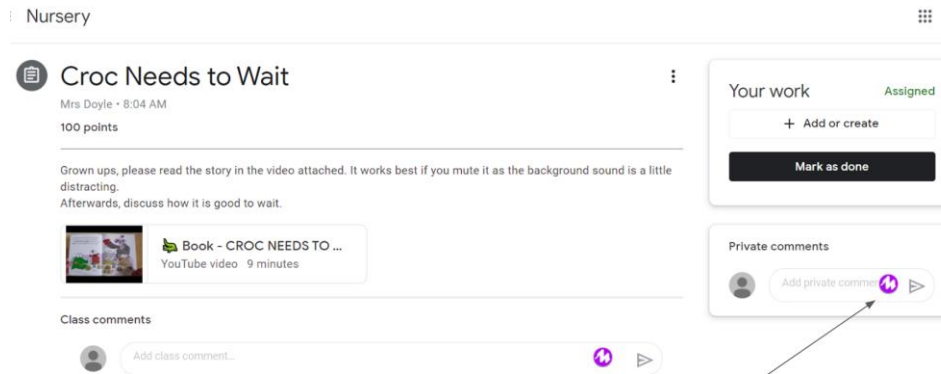
We currently have as many children in school as we safely can, **any further requests cannot be accommodated at this time**, even if you have a “key worker letter.” I know this is not good news, we wish we could have everyone in school but it is not safely possible.

Some parents are ringing the school office and querying the school places allocated to other families. Please be aware that we cannot give you information about other families and the circumstances that have enabled places in school to be offered to them. **Please do not turn up at school to speak to staff without an appointment or take out your frustrations on our office staff** – we do understand the difficulties you are facing and are doing everything within our power to help and support you.

I would like to thank those parents who rescinded their child’s in-school place after my update on 20.1.21 and would ask again, **if anyone is taking up a school place who doesn’t need it, to please let us know.**

**Lockdown Rules** – The whole country is under strict lockdown rules, staff in school have increased risk of catching the virus (we do this because it is a job we love). It is demoralising however, to hear of families mixing, visiting other homes, having sleepovers and breaking the lockdown rules in what they think are small ways when our dedicated staff are putting themselves at risk providing care and education for your children. I know this is a small minority of our lovely families but I would ask you from the heart, to stick to the rules so we can get out of this terrible situation.

**Remote learning – Phonics** The teachers are working really hard to provide tailored learning for the different phonics groups but there doesn't appear to be many people accessing it. It could be because a lot of the learning is for watching and discussion and as such there is nothing to 'submit' to us. There is a way of showing us that your child has completed the activity: In the top left of the screen there is a black button saying 'mark as done' which you need to click (see the screenshot below). You can also add a comment on behalf of your child, or use the mote function to record your child's voice.



This is the mote function. Click the purple button to start recording voice then click done when you've finished.

**Daily phonics practice is essential in order to lessen the impact of being out of school. Please prioritise phonics ahead of any other activities set.**

We understand that small children are not always co-operative, please just do your best. Sometimes it is ok to give up and have a fresh start the following day rather than turn it into a battle.

On a lighter note – we are very much looking forward to celebrating the Feast of St John Bosco with you all tomorrow. There will be an extra assembly at 9.15am and we hope to see you there. If your child has not yet voted for their favourite school motto, please remind them to check their Purple Mash email.

With love and prayers,

Mrs Johnson