

Dear Parents

We have begun working this morning on a way forward for our school within the new lockdown rules. The first thing we need urgently from you is an indication of who requires a critical worker place in school for their child. Please read all of the below and think carefully before requesting this provision.

As the Prime Minister said in his speech last night, right now the virus is out of control and it is essential that everyone stays at home as much as is possible. We have a collective duty to help contain the spread of the virus so children (and adults) should remain at home wherever possible.

The following categories make up the government definition of a critical worker. However, within these categories, the work must be critical to the covid 19 or EU transition response at this time, and where parents can work from home, they should. Before applying for a school place, please check with your employer whether provision can be made for you to work at home.

- Health & social care
- Education & childcare
- Key public services
- Local & national government
- Food & other necessary goods
- Public safety & national security
- Transport & border
- Utilities, communication and financial services

Vulnerable children are those who:

- Have a current or pending Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- Have an allocated Social Worker
- Are Looked after children (LAC)
- Are working with the Local Authority Early Help Team

Unlike the first lockdown, please remember that **childcare and support bubbles are now allowed and continue to be allowed at this time.**

You can form a **support bubble** with another household of any size if:

- You live by yourself – even if carers visit you to provide support
- You are the only adult in your household who does not need continuous care as a result of a disability
- Your household includes a child who is under the age of one.
- Your household includes a child with a disability who requires continuous care and is under the age of 5
- You are aged 16 or 17 living with others of the same age and without any adults
- You are a single adult living with one or more children who are under the age of 18.

A **childcare bubble** is where one household links with one other household to provide informal childcare to anyone under 14. All adults in both households must agree to this arrangement. 'Informal' childcare means it is unpaid and unregistered.

Members of either household can provide childcare in a home or public place. This includes overnight care.

You can only have one childcare bubble with one other household. This means no household should be part of more than one childcare bubble.

You can only use a childcare bubble for childcare. You cannot use a childcare bubble to mix with another household for other reasons.

If you fall into one of the above categories and you **DO NOT** have any other childcare during the school closure then we need you to **complete the form on School Spider by 1pm today**. Where applying on the basis of being a critical worker, you will need to provide the name and contact details for your line manager in order for us to confirm that your work is critical to the covid 19 or EU transition response.

In order to protect all of our children and ensure we follow government guidelines on delaying the spread of the covid-19 virus we are limited to the number of places we will be able to offer. Please only request this provision if you have **NO OTHER** available childcare for your child(ren).

If the number of requests exceeds the number of children we are able to safely accommodate with the staffing levels available, we will have to prioritise the children and families who are offered a place.

There will be further communication throughout the day today as we plan the detail going forward.

Thank you for your support and understanding at this very difficult time.

Mr Gibson, Mrs Kelsey, Mr Rickaby.

