

Queen's Inclosure Primary School

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IMPORTANT - Critical Worker Evidence Required by Friday 15th January

Dear Parent /Carer,

In the letter dated 7th January 2021, we communicated that the registrations for 'critical worker' places in school was overwhelmingly high. We have not received the response we were hoping for in reducing the number of children in classes, but would like to express our gratitude to the parents of the 5 children who have switched to the Remote Learning offer.

The published government guidance

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision?utm_source=4%20January%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

It states '*Critical Workers - Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. 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.*'

Limiting attendance is about reducing the number of contacts that all of us have with people in other households. In some classes, the number of children attending could compromise the children's safety and the safety of our staff. Children should only be in school if there is **no option** to have them remote learning from home. Not only will this reduce the number of contacts with other households, it will also limit the chances of a positive case within a class bubble and all children having to self-isolate. This could ultimately impact on our frontline health care workers being able to carry out their essential roles in saving lives.

In the Chief Medical Officer Professor Chris Whitty's press release on Monday 10th January - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-from-chief-medical-officer-professor-chris-whitty-on-national-alert-levels> – stated;

'The new, more transmissible variant of this disease is spreading rapidly across the country and having tragic consequences. On Monday the 4 UK Chief Medical Officers and the NHS Medical Director recommended raising the national alert level to the maximum of level 5 for the first time. This means that without further action there is a material risk of our healthcare services being overwhelmed within 21 days. Since then the situation has deteriorated further'

*'The public have made an extraordinary effort so far. Of course we are all tired of restrictions, but we need to find the collective strength to get through this critical stage and save as many lives as we can. **The advice right now is unambiguous: to drive the numbers down, we must stay home except for work, exercise and essential activities. Every unnecessary interaction you have could be the link in a chain of transmission which has a vulnerable person at the end.**'*

'We cannot afford to let our justified optimism for the future come at the expense of difficult action today. That means for now staying home and avoiding all unnecessary contacts. By following the rules, we will save lives and help normal life return more swiftly.'

As you may have heard said, several times during the last few weeks, it's not about what the rules say you can do, it's about what you should do.

We have received communications from a number of Critical Worker parents who, understandably, feel upset and frustrated that, whilst they are keeping their child at home during these very

challenging times, know of children being sent in to school simply because a member of their household has Critical Worker status and not because they are actually out at work during the school day.

As we would like to increase our effort to reduce the number of children in classes, in line with the Government guidance, **we now require evidence, in the form of a letter from employers of all Critical Workers with children attending school by 3pm on Friday, 15th January 2021**. We will contact employers to ask whether the critical work has to be undertaken during the school day and/or can be carried out from home. We know that many of you are legitimate Critical Workers with a genuine need for in school provision, so we apologise to you that we have to burden you further with this request. Please send your evidence electronically to adminoffice@queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk. If we do not receive this, you will be notified by 4pm on Friday 15th January that your child's school place will be withdrawn from Monday 18th January and will automatically switch to the Remote Learning offer. For those parents who have already sent their critical worker evidence to us this week, there is no need for you to resubmit it.

For awareness, the Remote Learning sent out is identical to what is being delivered in school. A reduction in the number of children in school will not only reduce the risk of transmissions, it will free up the teachers to increase their capacity to support the parents and children receiving the remote learning at home.

We know that some families are facing difficulties accessing learning through a device; if you need a printed pack of learning each week and have not already collected one this week, please request this, via email to your child's year group email address yearN@queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk. We will make this learning available for collection from 9am each Monday.

We have really appreciated all the positive comments and welcome constructive feedback that continues to help us improve what we offer to all our families. We thank you for your continued support and understanding at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J Allen
Headteacher