

22nd January 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Following increasing demand for children of critical workers and those children deemed vulnerable to learn in school during this lockdown, we have had to review our bubble arrangements and staffing for children in school. Teachers will now be in school on a rota so, for one week in every three, if your child is learning remotely then his/her live sessions will be led by the other teachers in the year group. They will explain this to the relevant class each week in their live sessions on Friday.

Most of our bubbles are now at full capacity, based on being able to appropriately staff reasonable sized bubble groups, maintaining a safe environment for staff and children. We can now only consider requests for places in school in exceptional circumstances.

Vulnerable children are encouraged to attend, and this includes those who have an education, health and care (EHC) plan, or those with a social worker, but the guidance published by the Government has been updated and makes it clear that parents who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can, especially if they are currently working from home, or have other adults in the household that are able to supervise their children.

Doing this will support the national effort to reduce the high rates of COVID-19, as the national restrictions mean all children who can stay at home, should stay at home.

In order to support your childcare arrangements, the guidance published by the Government regarding childcare bubbles states that if you live in a household with anyone aged under 14, you can form a childcare bubble which allows friends or family from one other household to provide informal childcare. Full guidance on childcare bubbles is available using the link below; <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#contents>

I would like to politely remind parents/carers who currently have children attending school that children should only be in on days when they cannot be kept at home, as per government guidance, e.g. if parents/carers work on a Monday-Wednesday, and cannot care for their child at home on those days, then the child can be in school Monday-Wednesday and should be at home on the Thursday and Friday to minimise numbers in school and therefore reduce risk of transmission of COVID-19. Please contact the office to update our information about which days your child will be in school, where relevant.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sansom
Headteacher