



Important update for "Critical Worker" families

Dear parents/carers,

As of Wednesday 6th January, our school has been open to the children of critical workers and vulnerable children only. Compared to the previous lockdown, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of parents claiming critical worker status. This has not been helped by the ambiguous list produced by the government and the notification that schools should consider all applications, despite only one parent being a critical worker and another working from home.

The Government love to keep us on our toes and the revised guidance **now** states that parents **should keep their child at home as much as possible, even if critical workers**. It is due to this revised guidance that I find myself writing to you again to explain the position of the school.

We are doing all that we can in school to make our environment safe - keeping bubbles apart, limiting the number of contacts around the corridors and communal areas and allowing for social distancing where possible - but due to the amount of critical worker applications plus various other requests for pupils to attend school, we find ourselves in a very precarious position. We have reduced staffing due to CEV instructions and we are expected to provide quality daily remote learning to the children who are at home, but we have an ever-increasing number of parents wishing to be considered as a critical worker.

When we opened in May to various year groups, the classrooms were all measured and 1m² distances were measured to understand how many children we could safely welcome back with the minimum 1 metre distance. Each phase differs slightly, but the majority of classrooms can take up to 20 pupils with a 1m² space for each. We have now almost exceeded this amount in each class and continue to receive requests for places.

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I am writing to revise my recommendation of all pupils to be in every day and request that you only use our provision when you need to. This is in line with the most recent government guidance which states:

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

This guidance also outlines that where a critical worker parent is working from home, children should remain home with them to limit the number of pupils in school. With this in mind, I politely request all parents whose child/children attend the setting to consider whether your child has to be in school full time. Our remote offer, as outlined in my previous letter, is comprehensive and we have many mechanisms in place to remove barriers to accessing this such as loaning of devices, technical support and internet data.

If you do not require a place full time, then please let the class teacher know when you next drop off your child or email the office on office@stgg.org.uk

Thank you to the parents who have already considered the risks of more pupils in school and have already requested to have their place removed or have reduced their number of days. Following this letter if we continue to have a rise in requests for critical worker provision, we will have to re-look at our current offer and will be reconsidering the places that we have currently assigned within the school. Please ensure that you have a plan B, as this may be required.

Thank you for your co-operation and in advance for considering your school placement needs at this current moment in time.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Pointon
Headteacher