



WHITMORE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Thursday 14th January

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all your continued support during these past two weeks and your prompt responses to our correspondence, which has been extremely helpful in organising provision for your children.

This letter is coming to you because of the revised Government guidance received on Friday evening, which states that children of critical workers should be kept at home where possible. Where there is only one critical worker in the family, you work part time, or you have a shift pattern which would enable you to keep your child at home for all or some of the time, please keep them at home, as this is the safest place for them. School places are emergency provision to allow critical workers to carry out their jobs which keeps the country running during this period of lockdown.

It is vital that parents respect the spirit of the lockdown to limit the transmission of COVID-19 and protect our communities. This includes protecting our school community including the school staff and their families as well as you and your children. The more time that your children and our staff are in school increases the risk of transmission to your child, your family and our staff. If a child or a member of staff caught the virus, the whole group would have to self-isolate, therefore preventing critical workers being able to go to work.

If your child is currently attending school as a critical worker child, please think carefully whether they need to be in school as much as they are. We are all safest when we 'stay at home' and we owe it to the children and staff to heed that advice wherever possible. It is vital that all of our school community follows the rules as set out by the Government.

If you request a place for your child we will ask for evidence in the form of a copy of your ID badge or a letter from your employer stating your role as a critical worker, confirming your job cannot be carried out from home and the days/shifts pattern. We will also ask if you are able to keep your child at home for some or all of the time, in line with the DfE updated guidance.

If you have been allocated a place but you now recognise that with this new guidance, you would be able to keep your child at home, please email admin@whitmorepark.org

Your child will receive remote learning provision and school will support if you have difficulties with technology.

Thank you to all of our critical workers. We know we have parents on the frontline dealing with huge stress and pressure and we remain ever grateful of your hard work.

It would be very helpful if you could inform school by Friday 15th if there are any changes to the current arrangements.

Thank you to everyone for your continued patience and support in enabling use to respond to updated guidance.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J McGibney

Head Teacher