



Bardsey Primary School
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Acting Headteacher: Mark Knight

Monday 25th January 2021

Dear Parents or Carers,

To Parents of Children who are Critical Workers

Once again, due to the current Lockdown and the closure of schools announced three weeks ago by the Prime Minister, the school is currently offering provision for those children classed as vulnerable, and the children of critical workers. This time around, we have received many more applications for places. This has meant our critical or key worker groups are much larger and it was necessary to close applications for these places in order to comply with our Risk Assessment and keep school staff safe.

In previous letters, I have also asked that even if one parent is a critical worker and there is another parent at home, then parents keep their children at home. This is the safest place for them. I would ask that you consider whether it is possible for your child to be home – if you are an A&E consultant, clearly you cannot take your child in to work. If you are able to work at home, whilst I fully appreciate it is really, really difficult, is it possible to have your child home?

At a head teachers' briefing session recently, Dr Matt Butler (consultant on the COVID wards at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge) made it clear that in order to have significant impact upon the R-rate, schools need to operate in the region of 10% capacity. Currently, we have about 25% of children accessing school. Dr Butler has advised that 'if you can work from home, you must, and you must keep your children with you. We cannot get the R down with the number of children who are accessing school now.'

Until the time applications for critical worker places closed, I relied on the honesty and integrity of all our parents. Those who said they needed a place, this was taken at face value and were awarded a place. Unfortunately, it has come to my attention that some parents may be in a position to keep their children at home (for some days) rather than send them into school (in some cases all week). This is denying some of our other critical worker parents the opportunity to send their children in who may feel they need to. I am sure some of these parents would welcome the opportunity to send their children into school even if that might be for just a day or two.

After much deliberation and discussion with our Chair of Governors, school is now asking for proof that parents (who are currently sending their children into school) are in fact critical workers. This may be in the form of a letter from your employer, a scanned or photocopied identity card or a wage slip. This needs to be sent to school electronically or in a named envelope by Friday 29th January at 9.00am. Please outline in your correspondence what the other parent (if there are two) does in your household so it can be established whether they are at home for all or some of the week.



Once we receive this information at school, it may mean we are able to re-jig the timetables slightly. This will only be possible if there is less demand for places though.

Thank you for your continued support in these times when hard decisions are having to be made to **equally** support our families and staff.

Best wishes

M. J. Knight

Acting Headteacher