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Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

Shirley Junior School



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Critical Worker Update

We wanted to write to you with an update on our current provision in school in relation to requests for Critical Worker spaces. As you are aware, the national restrictions mean that all children who can stay at home, should stay at home. **This includes the children of those identified as critical workers, wherever possible**, and the critical worker definition is only supposed to cover **front line** critical staff who are **currently and directly involved in the Covid or Brexit efforts**.

While we acknowledge that the guidance specifies that only one parent is required to be a critical worker to be eligible, we must take seriously the safety implications of having too many children within any one 'bubble' and therefore ask all critical worker families currently attending and those requesting spaces to carefully consider their need for space/s.

The DfE guidance recommends that children be maintained in small groups, making use of social distancing where possible. Unfortunately, our in school 'bubbles' are now in danger of going against these recommendations and are reaching unsafe numbers; despite our recent request regarding part time provision.

We therefore need to make you aware that we may need to re-evaluate what provision we are able to offer, both to current families and those requesting in the future; using a banding system in order to prioritise spaces for those most in need, starting with vulnerable pupils and pupils we have invited in ourselves.

If you are a keyworker who is now able to switch to remote learning provision and can now keep your child at home, please notify the school as soon as possible. We understand this means you will not be able to give them 1:1 attention, or that they may not be able to engage with every single lesson, and that is absolutely fine. We are trying to encourage children to be as independent as possible, and to cater for all needs, through our home learning provision but we appreciate that we are on a steep learning curve too!

We really appreciate your support during this very challenging period and encourage you to engage in the spirit of the lockdown and do what you can to help reduce rates of transmission.

With warm regards,

Shirley Junior / Infant School Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team

