

Dear Parents and Carers,

The government are now working towards a target of **Monday 8th March** for children returning to school. All staff are looking forward to welcoming all of our children back safely and whichever date is selected by the government, we'll be ready!



As you are aware, school is currently open only to those of critical workers and vulnerable children. While the guidance for children classed as vulnerable is that they attend school every day, **the guidance for critical workers is to only attend school where necessary. DfE guidance states that 'Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.'** This is to ensure we can keep our children and staff as safe as possible during this worrying time.

Our numbers in school are very high, ranging from between 12-17 within each class, with one class in school having 21 children registered to attend and the vast majority of these attending every day. These numbers are considerably higher than they were during the first lockdown and significantly higher than figures nationally.

We encourage all critical worker parents to keep children at home if it is possible to do so. Our remote learning set up through Seesaw means that children can split the week between attending school and remote learning without any disruption to their education and this is working successfully with several families who are following this guidance.

We appreciate that the vast majority of children work better in school than at home, and that remote learning can be challenging and stressful. **The DfE encourage parents to 'consider the spirit of the lockdown' when making their decision to send their child into school and we would actively encourage you to do the same.** Just keeping your child at home a couple of days a week if you're not working would make a big difference to the numbers in school and therefore reduce the risk of transmission and the subsequent closure of one or more Bubbles due to positive cases.

We hope that you take this letter in the spirit with which it is meant - we desperately want to support all families by providing school places for those who need them, but overall our priority is always on keeping our children and staff safe.

As always, thank you for your support,

Jim