

5 January 2021

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Ms T Meredith - Headteacher

To All Parents/Carers

Dear Parents & Carers

I am writing to you again in light of the new announcement by the Government and the implications of going into a full lockdown. I am hoping by now that you have all received a personal call from your teacher to discuss the offer of places for keyworkers. It is still our intention to offer face-to-face teaching for keyworker children. You will now receive a form to complete if we consider you are eligible.

I have very few staff who are available to work with children face-to-face in school. Many of them contracted the virus before and during the holiday and are still recovering. Some are self-isolating after being in contact with positive cases, others have childcare issues because all schools are shut and some are in quarantine having returned from abroad. You may also be aware that teaching unions have advised all their members not to come into school but provide remote learning only. I therefore have to use the few staff I have available to prioritise keyworker families. If you are not a keyworker and have requested a place, your child will go into a waiting pool and when the staffing ratio improves you may be offered a place. As much as I understand your frustrations, I would ask you to try to engage with my staff sensitively and politely as the pandemic is affecting them also.

I am passionately committed to keeping the children in school but my hands are tied by Public Health and DfE guidance and directives. I also cannot offer you a place if I have no staff to deliver face-to-face teaching.

The transmission of this new variant is so fast and local hospitals in Hounslow and West London are totally overwhelmed.

If you are offered a place as a keyworker please note that it will most likely not be with the class teacher and familiar adults.

In Summary

If you are a keyworker you will be offered a priority place to start school this week. The starting day will be Thursday and not Wednesday. This is to allow time for all staff to be tested for Covid-19 using the new lateral flow rapid tests. You will receive a call to confirm this and the school will inform transport if needed.

If you are not a keyworker and have requested a place, I will give consideration to all cases and endeavour to make provision if staff become available.

The teachers will be providing Google Classroom content appropriate to the pupil's age and needs from Wednesday.

Yours faithfully

Tracy Meredith
Headteacher