



13th January 2021

COVID 19 is now at unprecedented levels in Greater London and Surrey. Please keep your child at home for at least the next 2 weeks if you can.

Dear Parents

London is at the epicentre of the huge increase in positive cases and deaths from COVID 19. The Mayor of London has declared a 'Critical Situation' and estimates that more than 1 in 30 people may be positive for Coronavirus. The Office for National Statistics says that this number increases to 1 in 23 people when it comes to primary schools. The Prime Minister, Health Minister and Public Health England have all announced that the next few weeks are critical in terms of the NHS being able to cope with this unprecedented surge in infection.

The Government is now asking all parents and carers to keep their children home if they can. It is likely that the next two weeks will be the most perilous.

The balance of risk that we have to calculate in school is incredibly difficult at this time, as we can see that so many of our parents are involved in front line essential work. The Governors and I are committed to keeping the school open to those involved in critical work at this time as well as those children who are extremely vulnerable. We must however balance the risk to staff who are also key workers and try to ensure that as many people stay at home at this time as possible.

We are asking that parents who request provision via the [Critical Key Worker Form \(WB 18/1/21\)](#) do so **only if they absolutely need to. We must prioritise safe provision for frontline key workers and especially those in working in the NHS.**

Please give the following questions special consideration at this time:

- **Despite being a Key Worker do you have to send your child into school at this time for example could they be looked after by a second parent who can work from home?**
- **Do children have to attend for the entire week? We are able to work around shift patterns and take children for specific days.**

Children working remotely will continue to receive **good quality lessons from their teachers structured throughout each school day, backed up by phone calls, Google and Zoom calls.**

We recognise that the roles and responsibilities of Critical Key Workers can be very stressful at this time and that for these families, keeping children at home to learn is particularly challenging. With this in mind we have increased the levels of wellbeing support available to families through trained staff in school and externally. This support can be accessed via the school office or by contacting [Mrs Druce](#) direct.

"Love proves itself by deeds so how am I to show my love?" St Thérèse of Lisieux



Our shared values and in particular, those around *teamwork* and *trust* are fundamental to our shared commitment to each other at this time. We hope that the picture in the weeks and months ahead will gradually start to improve. Positive case numbers will fall in time and until they do, we are committed to striking the correct balance to mitigate risk, keep people safe and protect our wonderful NHS that so many of you work within.

Yours sincerely.

Justin Dachtler
Headteacher

Tracey Dunleavy/[Giles Burton](#)
Co-Chairs of Governors

Robert Amis
Vice Chair of Governors