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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, the school is currently closed to 'most pupils'. The Government has set out further guidance as to who qualifies as 'Critical Workers or Key Workers' and these families are able to request to send their children into school, on the days they are at work.

Nearly all schools (and certainly those within our geographical area), have found the number of children attending school has increased considerably since the first lockdown. In our school, numbers have quadrupled since the first lockdown in March.

I include the initial wording from the latest Department for Education guidance below:

Critical workers: Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined ... Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college, if required, (e.g. there is no other childcare bubble facility) **but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.**

With infection rates (and COVID related deaths) at an all-time high, I would ask that all parents continue to **carefully consider** if their child needs to be in school at this time. We realise that schooling from home is very difficult and balancing that with work commitments is even more challenging. All we ask of our families is that you try your best as this is all we ever ask of the children. Our Remote Learning offer has increased and developed since the first lockdown in March and this should help support learning at home.

Please only send your child to school **on the days where it is absolutely essential** to enable us to keep our school bubbles small. A reminder to all of our families, especially those sending their children into school, that Government lockdown guidelines should be adhered to at all times and **'act like you have the virus'** to keep the risk of infection low, both at school and in the community.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards,

Mrs Maria Budd

Headteacher