



# Deanery C.E. Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Jayne Lockett, BSc (Hons), PGCE, NPQH



5 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are experiencing an incredibly difficult time for education and as a country as a whole. Prime Minister, Boris Johnson delivered a very strong message last night as we enter into another national lockdown. We are required to limit social contact and stay at home. The country has been put into Tier 5 which is the strictest level of imminent danger to the NHS. Prime Minister Johnson explained that every step has to be undertaken to stop the spread of the infection and to protect the NHS. There is clear evidence for the need to close schools as children act as vectors of the virus.

We have to implement steps to reduce the rate of the infection and as of Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021, education at the Deanery will move to remote learning. This means that teachers will be providing a daily timetable of learning available through Google drive. It is essential that staff ensure comparable opportunity for all children whether home learning or within the child care facility in school.

It is important that I share with you the real difficulty that is facing Deanery at this time. Over 50% of our families have requested to take up a place as a key worker. This number is not safe for our children, staff, families and our school community and we cannot in all conscience open the school with this amount of children. The country is in the same position of a lockdown that we experienced in March where places in schools were offered for children of key workers who were part of the Covid response, such as doctors, nurses, NHS personnel and police officers. If we were to offer all places requested then not only would this be unsafe for our school community but remote learning would be of a reduced quality.

We have to strike a balance between those doing vital work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and keeping everyone safe and therefore in line with our risk assessment we have to prioritise our offer and limit places for parents who qualify as key workers and who require child care while they are leaving home to attend their place of work. These places are intended for families who have no other adult at home to look after children and who are immediately required in the response to this virus.

Regardless of your critical worker status if there is an adult at home you will not be offered a place in the first instance. We may not offer full time places in most cases so that more families can be accommodated and we will request information regarding working patterns in order to ensure that the children most in need of a place can be accommodated.

The safest place for children is to be at home at this time, as mixing with other children will heighten the risk of infection and should be avoided unless there are no other options.

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We appreciate that this will have an impact on your ability to continue to work from home as a key worker but also believe that it is vital to be able to offer a safe environment for a very small number of children to attend school as a child care facility when there is no alternative care available at home. With this in mind we have discussed an order of priority with Birmingham local authority which is as below:

Prioritisation of places offered

1. Vulnerable children
2. Families with two key worker parents who both have to leave the home to attend work in direct response to Covid 19 **or** a single parent household who is a key worker who has to leave home to attend work in direct response to Covid 19.
3. Families with two key worker parents where one parent has to leave home in response to Covid 19 and the other parent is working from home in direct response to Covid 19.

We ask you to consider carefully, given the information we have shared whether you are in need of a place for your child given the clear message from the government that we are all safest at home.

Can you please complete the application form detailing which category of prioritisation your child would be in and your shifts patterns for requirements of childcare. We cannot guarantee a place for all applications within all categories as places are limited to ensure safety. Please complete by 3pm today. We will communicate with you by 6pm today via email if you have a place.

Thank you for your continued support

Jayne Lockett

Head Teacher  
Deanery C E Primary School