

Tuesday 05 January 2021

COVID-19 Update



Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you all so much for your continued patience and understanding as we respond to the continuing concern over the spread of Corona Virus.

The Prime Minister announced last night that schools were to close from tomorrow other than for pupils who are children of Critical Workers or those that are vulnerable until after February half-term.

Our position as a school is that at the present time, the safest place for your child will be at home with you, and if you are able to, you should keep them at home and we will support them via remote education.

I appreciate this latest announcement will be causing a great deal of anxiety and concern.

I will try and clarify the school position and what action if any you need to take.

If you feel you meet the criteria for Critical Worker Status please complete the online form below, by 3.30pm today [Critical Worker Form](#) in addition please forward to BST@astleypark.lancs.sch.uk a letter or email from your employer confirming your critical worker status. Employee confirmation must be received to secure an ongoing critical worker place for your child.

We have updated our criteria and only one parent needs to be a critical worker to qualify for a place.

During the previous lockdown, all pupils with an EHCP were classed as vulnerable, as a special school this involved all our pupils, unfortunately we are not able to offer places to all pupils, as this would mean our numbers of pupils onsite could remain the same, and the aim is to reduce numbers of staff and pupils onsite. I have discussed with the Chair of Governors and agreed that our initial criteria for vulnerable children will be those who have a social worker.

These criteria will be regularly reviewed and could be developed depending on numbers requiring onsite learning and further guidance being issued.

To clarify, in the first instance onsite provision will only be offered to, all children of a Critical Worker and those children who have a social worker.

We are hoping to be able to provide onsite provision for all children of Critical Workers and those that have a social worker; however, this will ultimately depend on the numbers of staff that are available to ensure bubbles can operate safely.

A text message will be sent at 3.30pm to those families who are being offered a Critical Worker Place.



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For those children who have a social worker places have been allocated and parents have been informed.

For those pupils who are at home, class teachers will be in touch tomorrow to discuss your child's remote education and will agree what form this will take to best meet your child's needs.

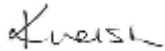
For those pupils who are in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals, we will continue to provide you with the vouchers.

I will write with a further update later this week.

These are incredibly difficult times for everyone, but if we work together, we will get through it.

Kindest regards,

Keep Safe 



Mr Kieran Welsh
Headteacher

