

Headteacher: James Tibbles

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Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I apologise now for writing to you twice in one day (again!) but I am writing to you asking for your support.

Over the course of the day, it has become clear that the demand for spaces during this lockdown is much greater than any of us expected and we already have a significantly higher number of children in school than at any point during the first lockdown. We are also looking to ensure that we provide a high-quality remote learning offer (in-line with what would be on offer in school) for those children who are not attending.

As I'm sure you will appreciate and understand, there is a high degree of anxiety amongst the staff team about the risks associated with having so many children in school. As I know that some families have, we have lost friends and family to COVID and I am hearing stories from my colleagues in Kent and around the country about staff in school contracting COVID. It was also reported in the TES this morning that teacher COVID rates are up to 333% above average.

We do have a number of staff who are 'clinically vulnerable' and have continually put themselves at risk throughout the course of the pandemic.

This is not a request that I make lightly but, in order to protect the health and wellbeing of the staff (as well as transmission in the wider community), I must now ask parents to reconsider their need for a place at school.

I have left the Microsoft Form open for all parents and if you can make alternative arrangements, then please can I ask you to complete the form indicating this. If you have already completed the form, it can be resubmitted. There is now also the explicit option to attend part-time if this is possible, I appreciate that this is counter to what I proposed earlier today but to be frank, the situation is severe.

We would never turn away a family where there is no other option but if there are alternatives to you, then please can I ask you to make use of these.

If you have already been contacted by a member of staff today, there is no need for you to resubmit the form.

[Link to Microsoft Form](#)

The form will close tomorrow at 3pm. Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James Tibbles'.

James Tibbles

Headteacher

