

## Springfield Primary Academy

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Principal: Mr A Willett



Care, Collaboration, Challenge

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent

As you can imagine, it's been a very challenging week, not just for those of us in school, but also those parents that are once again having to home school. I would like to update you on both the situation regarding key workers and also our home schooling offer.

As you know, the aim of the lockdown is to reduce the amount of contacts as much as possible in order to limit the transmission of Coronavirus and allow the NHS to cope with the new variant. This has led to schools closing and the requirement for schools to provide a key worker and vulnerable group offer. I am very concerned that with the number of children coming into school this week, the amount of contact may not be reduced to the extent that we need it to be. Currently, we have 135 children in school, with 24 in some year group classes already.

Yesterday, the Department for Education published its updated guidance. The guidance states that, 'Parents and carers that are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.' It is due to this updated guidance that I am asking you to really consider the reason you are requesting a place. The key worker and vulnerable group is for those parents who are required to work and believe they have no other option but to use this offer. This offer should only be taken up as a last resort. I understand that these are difficult times, but this group should not be used for convenience. Please be aware that we may have to consider the number of children coming into school. We may also have to offer an alternative local trust school should we reach our capacity, dependent on staffing levels. We would like to support our community the best way that we can, but must continue to remain safe.

This is contradictory to the message that we have been giving out since Tuesday, but we are working in a rapidly changing situation, reacting to guidance that at times seems to be changing daily.

If circumstances change and you are able to keep your child at home, please inform the school office. If you need a place for your child as you are a key worker, please also contact the school office. Children will be able to start on the Monday after you contact school. This is so that we can ensure staffing levels are adequate.

Yesterday saw those children that have to remain at home begin their home learning once again. Every year group will have work set for them each day. The guidance is for at least three hours of work for our Key Stage 1 children, less for our younger children, and at least four hours for our Key Stage 2 children. I understand that this is a huge commitment, especially for those parents that are also juggling working from home. As children post work onto Class Dojo, teachers will aim to give prompt feedback. It may not necessarily be your child's class teacher that gives feedback, as they may be in class at that time.

Teachers may ask children to correct a piece of work, or add to it. Please do not take this as criticism of your child or of your support. We were thrilled with the quality of the work that was

done during the previous lockdown and yesterday's work that was posted was also of a high quality. Any comments made are to support your child in improving.

The children in school will be taught the same subject content as those that are at home, so that everyone is able to move forward together once we are all in school again.

If you are having problems accessing Class Dojo, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Thank you once again for all that you are doing and for your continuing support. All of our staff are here to support you as much as they possibly can. Again, please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any concerns or anything that we can help you with.

Yours faithfully

A. Willett