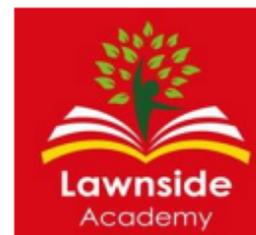


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Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you know last Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, which has now come into effect. As part of this announcement it was made clear that vulnerable children and children of critical workers would be able to attend school if needed. Central Bedfordshire Council shared a letter to parents and, rather than only send this letter to you, I have incorporated the pertinent parts of their letter into this, my letter to you.

We really want to accommodate every child, but sadly this just isn't possible in the light of the new Covid regulations. We are currently operating socially distanced teaching and learning, with enhanced safety procedures and reduced staffing capacity due to sickness and/or isolation.

The latest Government guidance published on 7<sup>th</sup> January says: 'Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can'.

To try and support as many pupils and parents as possible, we are asking critical workers to think very carefully before sending your child to school. If you are able to keep your children at home, then please do so. We appreciate this is difficult and the work you do is critical to the Coronavirus response however, as we reach capacity we will prioritise the following vulnerable children before critical workers:

- Children with a Child Protection Plan, Looked-After Children and children with Education, Health and Care Plans.
- Children previously on a Child Protection Plan or previously Looked-After.
- Those with a special guardianship order.
- Children with a Child in Need Plan.

This doesn't mean there isn't a place for your child if you are a critical worker but please help us by only requesting a place if you really need it.

The current guidance for children who are deemed clinically extremely vulnerable is not to attend their school setting and to remain at home as much as possible. If your child is within this category, please liaise with us and we will continue to support you.

All children not attending school will be supported to remain at home through remote learning and parents should expect a sliding scale of contact time for pupils from two hours for very young

pupils up to four hours for older pupils. Some of this will be 'live' teaching although this will vary for each year group / key stage due to reduced staffing capacity due to sickness and/or isolation and the number of teachers teaching in school as opposed to working from home. For children in years Reception, 3 and 4 there is currently more planned online learning than for children in years 1 and 2 due to more teachers teaching from home and being able to organise / facilitate this.

In addition to online live and/or recorded lessons we will also be, as with previous lockdowns, Parent Mailing and uploading weekly learning plans to our school website. We have also purchased and organised individual home learning packs for this lockdown and would like to invite you to come into school and collect these at the following times (if you have children in multiple year groups then please just come in at one of your allocated time slots and we will collate all of the packs for you):

Reception (Chestnut and Willow)	TBC - still waiting for delivery of resources
Year 1 (Cherry and Lime)	Thursday morning (14 <sup>th</sup> January)
Year 2 (Lime and Rowan)	Thursday afternoon (14 <sup>th</sup> January)
Year 3 (Sycamore and Birch)	Monday afternoon (18 <sup>th</sup> January)
Year 4 (Birch and Oak)	Tuesday afternoon (19 <sup>th</sup> January)

We do not have the capacity unfortunately to hand deliver these packs to all of our families however, if you really cannot collect your pack, please telephone the school office and we will see what we can organise to support you.

Finally, we appreciate that this is a difficult time for all parents, particularly critical workers and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, patience and understanding at this time.

Yours sincerely and please keep in touch with us if you have any concerns - we are still here to help you.



Cheryl Johnson  
Head Teacher