



Urchfont C. E. Primary School

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are being approached by an increasing number of parents as to whether their employment classes them as being a critical worker and therefore eligible to send their child to school. As a result, following additional guidance received by the government on Friday evening 8th January 2021, I would like to clarify the current situation.

At the moment all schools are officially closed with children asked to work remotely at home. The exception to this are those children deemed vulnerable and/or whose parents meet the government's criteria as previously circulated.

The government has updated their guidance in order to reduce overall social contact across areas and the country as a whole. It now states that those who can attend school settings are:

"Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response [in specified key sectors]. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can."

As you may have seen in recent media reports schools have seen a significant uptake in places compared to the March lockdown. In our case we are providing provision for 78% of those children who have already been identified as being eligible resulting in 44 pupils currently attending on either a part-time or full-time basis. We are continuing to try and ensure that we make the school as safe as we can for pupils and staff alike by implementing the Government's statement of controls document which includes limiting social contact between bubbles. Therefore, following Friday's update, we kindly request that if you can keep your child at home we would be very grateful. However, please be assured that we will continue to offer a place to those children who need it.

We appreciate that both children and their parents are finding remote learning 'tricky' but please be assured that we are all working hard to support you as much as we can during this time. This will include some further guidance and links that we will be uploading onto the Google Classroom and school website (Remote Learning tab).

Yours sincerely

Mrs. C. E. Talbot

