



BILLINGE CHAPEL END

— SCHOOL & NURSERY —

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11th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I would like to say happy New Year and that I hope that you all had a healthy and happy Christmas holiday. There have been many changes in school at the beginning of this Spring term, however I feel that it has gone relatively smoothly and this is as a result of the tireless efforts of our staff and your amazing response and support as parents and carers. As you may be aware, there have been many Government U-turns over the past week and I would like to thank you for your patience as I respond to these whilst keeping the safety of every member of our school community as my main focus.

What has been clear since re-opening on Wednesday is that the application for places at school is much higher, in fact five times higher, than we had in the previous lockdown. We are open to children of critical workers and children who are deemed vulnerable.

The guidance around admission of critical workers was updated on Friday 8th January. The update states that **only children of key worker parents/carers who cannot work from home are permitted to apply for a place within the school setting.**

We are aware that this will impact on many families who are currently sending their child into school. We would ask any family that has a key worker parent or carer at home, even if working from home, to keep their children at home with them.

I am sure that you will appreciate that this new variant of the corona virus is much more transmissible than the original strain. As the Headteacher of this school, my first priority is to keep every member of the school family safe. I must keep the number of children attending school during lockdown as low as possible so that the risk of transmission is kept to a minimum. I am fully aware that it is very difficult completing work tasks at home whilst providing support with home learning, however following the guidance it is what I must ask you to do at this time.

In response to this information, I would ask all families who now do not need a place at school to contact the school office as soon as possible so that our registers can be amended. We will also be reviewing applications to see which families are affected.

I would like to thank all of the teaching staff for providing home/blended learning efficiently and effectively. Teachers now have a dual role as they are in class every day teaching the children in school, as well as providing online support for their pupils at home. I would also like to thank all of our parents and carers for their response to the blended learning systems that have been put into place. We have seen some truly amazing learning being posted on Dojo, which I can honestly say brought a tear to the eye of many of our dedicated teachers.

Thank you for your continued support at this time.

Yours sincerely

Mr Hewitt

