

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

Dear Families,

### **COVID19 UPDATE & SCHOOL PLACES FOR CHILDREN OF CRITICAL WORKERS**

You may be aware that the Government has updated their advice about critical worker places for pupils. ***The guidance says that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.***

While the guidance may cause disappointment to some families who want to send their children to school, it has been updated to keep everyone safe in the context of very high infection rates, hospitalisation numbers and death rates. We have only been back at school for just over a week and we are already receiving reports of other primary schools where children in attendance have tested positive for Covid19. As a result, classes have had to close and children have been sent home. We already have a high number of children at St. Andrew's, many more than in the first lockdown in March and all staff are attending every day to cope with the demand.

As all staff are in school every day, if a member of staff or child at St. Andrew's tests positive for Covid19 then we will have to close classes and potentially the whole school depending on the number of cases. This will mean that we will not be able to provide a service to those parents who are critical workers and who absolutely need a place for their child.

***To this end, I have to report that our school is now full to capacity. Any new requests for school places will only be considered if there are exceptional circumstances and it is absolutely necessary.***

We also ask for your support in ensuring that the critical worker children we do have in school are only those for whom there is no other reasonable provision for home learning. For example, if only one parent is a critical worker and there is another parent at home or you can organise a [child-care bubble](#).

I am sure you would like to join me in thanking all our staff who are working incredibly hard to provide quality online learning and at the same time, teach the children in school. This is a new way of working for them and they are under immense pressure to make sure that they continue to do the best for all our children.

This week we will be calling some of you to review critical worker places and will require critical worker status letters from your employer where appropriate. Thanks again for your support and understanding in this unique and challenging time.

Yours sincerely,

Jayne Mitchell  
Executive Headteacher