



Dobcroft Junior School

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Thursday 7th January 2021

Key/Critical Worker- Update Letter

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you all regarding key/critical worker places in school. This letter is for all parents/carers regardless of whether your child is attending school or not for fairness and transparency. Please note parents/carers of pupils whom school has identified as vulnerable have been sent a separate letter.

As I mentioned in my letter this week, we have approximately 55% of children attending school because at least one of their parents/carers is a key/critical worker. As the guidance stands regarding size of bubbles this is currently sustainable. It is also sustainable as all of our staff feel comfortable working with bubbles over 15. However, several unions representing various roles in school are urging members to only work in smaller bubbles due to the severity of the COVID-19 situation. ***Please note our current bubble sizes are in line with DFE guidance and the local authority risk assessment.***

We are mindful as a school that the government's position may change. The government ***may advise smaller groupings***, this inevitably will have an impact upon the number of key worker places we can offer.

In the event of this happening we will follow the ***prioritisation criteria defined by Sheffield City Council***- many schools including DIS and other SWIP schools in our partnership are already using this and operating on much smaller bubbles. ***The criteria is attached separately.***

To help prepare for such an eventuality we require all parents who consider themselves to be a key/critical worker to:

1. Complete a new survey by 10 am 8.1.21
2. Send an official letter or email from your employer explaining your role and the days you work by 3pm 8.1.21 to enquiries@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk FAO head teacher

I apologise that this may seem like a U-turn, but due to the lack of detail that that comes with government announcements we are continuously left in a position of having to interpret things for ourselves, balance this with the needs of our school community and ultimately try to keep everyone safe. ***Please note for the time being all children who were offered a place this week may continue to attend school until we are informed otherwise. We are simply trying to gather information in the event of new guidance with no forewarning!***

On a positive note, I would like to thank all of the school community for your messages of support this week- it has really helped lift staff morale at what is an overwhelmingly challenging time. Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Kind Regards, Nicola Sexton- Head Teacher