

Beechwood Primary School

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Head Teacher: Miss S E Hunter

Executive Head Teacher: Mr C Cole



Thursday 14th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to inform you that the government guidelines regarding key worker children attending school have changed. The guidance we have been working under until now stated that children who had at least one key worker parent could attend school, and there was no limit on the number of children allowed in school or the size of the groups. On 8th January the government have added to this that **parents and carers who are key workers should keep their children at home if they can.**

As a result of this update, we will be asking any parents requesting a school place under the key worker category to a) provide evidence that at least one parent is a key worker, and b) provide evidence that you are not able to have your children at home as both parents are working during school hours.

If you were offered a key worker place before the 8th January, we will not be asking for additional evidence and those places will continue to be available to you. That being said, if you are able to care for children at home, we urge you to reconsider whether you need this place, and whether you are able to withdraw your children from in-school education. If this is the case, please let us know as soon as possible.

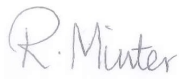
We continue to work hard to ensure that school is as safe as possible and have clear and robust systems in place to keep children and staff safe. Despite this, the number of children currently attending school is continuing to grow, and we now have over 100 children attending school. This has meant that group sizes are now much larger than during the first school closures in March 2020. Although we will always follow government guidance and provide in-school education for those who need it, keeping numbers to a minimum means we are better able to support our frontline key workers. With increased numbers of children and staff on site, the risk of having a positive case and having to close a bubble naturally increases. This will mean that frontline key workers, including food services, NHS staff, police etc, may not be able to attend work as their children will be required to self-isolate. COVID rates continue to be high in Wokingham and within the current lockdown that is in place, our school community must work together to keep one another and our wider community safe. This includes not sending your child to school if you do not have to.

Wokingham Council have also stated that 'the new variant of the virus is highly transmissible, meaning it's easier to catch and easier to pass on. If more children can learn at home, where possible, it will help to bring down infection rates across the borough'.

Please note that children who are attending school because they are in the vulnerable category are not affected by this change and should continue to attend school as usual.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office by phone or email.

Warm regards,

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Miss S E Hunter
Head Teacher

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