



HORLEY INFANT SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr Jason Walters



Critical Worker Provision

Wednesday 13th January 2021

Dear families,

We hope your child has settled well into their new bubble and that you and your family are managing to keep well during these difficult times. Now that the dust is beginning to settle once again, we wanted to explain our position in school and how the government guidance has changed regarding Critical Worker provision.

Critical Workers

Schools across the country have seen a huge surge in demand for critical worker places in comparison to the first lockdown. During the first lockdown, when the school was only open to Critical Worker & Vulnerable children from March 2020 – June 2020, the maximum number of children in school we had in on one day was 18. Yesterday, during this second national lockdown where the rate of infection is higher, the demand on the NHS is higher and the transmissibility of the new variant is higher, we had 88 children in school. We currently have 105 places allocated but just want to reinforce the message that having one parent as a critical worker only means you are eligible for a space, not entitled. The guidance also states “*parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.*” Because our numbers are so high, we strongly urge you to consider whether your place in school is absolutely necessary. Please consider:

- Do you need to send your child in every day? If you work 3 days a week for example, your child could stay at home for the other two. We have made sure that our remote learning offer matches the in-school offer on the weekly timetable sent out so this is made easier.
- Do you have a partner who is furloughed / working from home but is not classed as a **critical** worker in response to the COVID-19 pandemic / currently unemployed? If so, your child should be at home.
- If you are temporarily at home due to another child in your household having to self-isolate due to being a close contact; in which case your child from Horley Infant School should be at home with you, too.
- Can you liaise with your employer around implementing a flexible working arrangement? Employers have a legal responsibility to consider this which could involve making time available throughout the day to support your child and resuming work-related tasks later in the day/week. The current guidance suggests children in infant schools should access 3 hours of remote learning per day. We understand this has huge implications and may not be possible but during times of crisis, we must explore every avenue.

Positive Case in the Family

We have seen a number of families who have had a positive case in their households which has meant their whole household has needed to isolate. It is essential that you continue to inform us of any positive cases within the household via email at: covid@horley.surrey.sch.uk . As children are more likely to be asymptomatic, we feel there could be a real danger with children returning to school after the isolation period yet still being infectious within our school community. We are therefore strongly recommending getting your child tested for COVID-19 as soon as a positive case has been identified within your household or when the individual who tested positive is approaching the end of their isolation period. We would also suggest arranging a test if your child is experiencing any of the symptoms below and a household member has tested positive. We appreciate that this is not the government guidance and therefore not enforceable however we hope this suggested approach would reduce any further risk of transmission.

Very best wishes,

Mr. J. Walters
Headteacher

Child's symptoms...	
	A rash / hive like marks
	A sore throat or heavy cold
	More tired than usual / headaches
	A change in taste/smell e.g. "this tastes funny"

