



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

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Interim Head of School: Mrs Alice Shaw

Interim Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Monday 11th January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

Pupils in England should not attend school if critical worker parents can keep their children at home, says the Department for Education.

On Friday evening, the government made another U-turn to say that children of critical workers should only attend school if their parents or carers cannot work from home. Parents and carers are now urged to keep their children at home if at all possible.

In light of the new guidance and the fact that we have over 80 children at St. John's, we must now limit our critical worker places to families where:

- both parents are critical workers and cannot work from home

or

- one critical worker parent lives in a single parent household

I would like to thank those parents who have already reverted their children to remote learning following the correspondence we sent out last week. However, our numbers are still far too high.

We had hoped that we could keep our numbers to a minimum but unfortunately, this has not been the case. Therefore, I am left with no choice, but to ask our critical worker families to provide evidence that:

- both parents are critical workers and are unable to work from home in their role

or

- a parent is a critical worker and lives in a single parent household

If you still believe that your family fits the criteria, please contact the school office via email with evidence of both parents' job roles as critical workers and that both of you are unable to work from home. Or if a single parent critical worker, evidence of your job role as a critical worker.





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I am truly sorry to have to do this as I am fully aware of just how difficult many of our families are finding this situation. I understand the challenges first hand as I have also had to home-school my 5 year old and work from home while isolating before.

However, we must remember that the transmission rates are much higher than they were in March during our first lockdown, especially in London, and hospitals are under even more severe pressure than before. This is why parents are asked to keep their children at home, so we can reduce transmission risk of this highly infectious new variant.

Trying to balance being supportive to parents and the safety of staff and pupils is a challenging task and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the school community must be the first priority.

Thank you for your support during these unprecedented times, we remain committed to your children and we are doing the best we can in extremely difficult circumstances. Your support in helping to keep our staff, children and the community safe is much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Tonnie Read

Executive Headteacher

