

All Saints Bedworth C of E Primary School & Nursery

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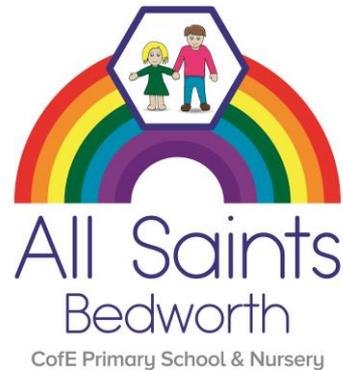
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Executive Headteacher: Mr Chris Errington

Head of School: Mrs Kerry O'Grady



“Learning and growing together to be the best that we can be”

Sunday 16th January 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

Unfortunately, less than one week into the new school term and despite the fact we have reduced numbers of pupils attending school, we have already had a confirmed Covid-19 case in school and we have had to close one Y5/Y6 key worker / vulnerable pupil bubble and request that all members isolate for 10 days. A letter has been sent separately to the relevant parents.

We know that our role in supporting parents who are essential to the Covid-19 response is extremely important and so we aim to provide school places for all children who need them, where there is no other option. However, we find ourselves in a situation where we are getting more and more requests from parents for pupils to attend. Our attendance in school is more than double what it was in the first lockdown, despite the numbers of cases in Nuneaton and Bedworth being much higher than it was previously, and the new strain of the virus being 50-70% more transmissible than the original strain. We know that children generally do not become serious ill if they catch the virus, but they do transmit the virus at a faster rate than others, and are highly likely to pass it on to staff and family members at home should they catch it in school.

We believe that some parents are sending their children to school when this is not absolutely necessary. I therefore need to ask you to consider if your child's attendance at school is essential. I politely request that you consider the following:

- In two parent households, where only one parent is a critical worker, please consider if you can organise care for your child to enable them to stay at home. This may be care from another household member or from a support bubble or childcare bubble.
- When you are not at work, please do not send your child to school. Only send your child on the days when it is absolutely necessary for you to do so
- If you are a critical worker who is working from home, please consider trialling your child learning remotely at home. As all lessons and guidance will be provided by teachers, you may find that your child is able to access this independently on the whole (depending on the age of child) or that you can support your child's learning once your work from home been completed.
- If you are sending your child to school because you are worried that they will be unable to access the learning from home (e.g. through limited access to devices), please let us know and we will endeavour to provide your child with a device they can use.
- Children who are learning at home will be given the same learning opportunities as the pupils attending school, so they will not be at an academic disadvantage if they learn from home – we are much more able to provide a consistent, quality education remotely than we were in the first lockdown, so this should not be a consideration.

In practical terms, based on our risk assessment, there will come a point where we have to start refusing places, so I urge you all to consider the above points so that we can make sure that children are attending school only if it is absolutely necessary. All staff remain working on site, and are committed to providing

high quality learning to those attending school and those learning from home. However they, like many of you, are concerned about their own health and wellbeing and that of the people they live with, so I would like to provide them and your children with a much protection as possible by reducing numbers in school where we can.

In short, if you are a critical worker and you would be unable to attend your workplace if your child does not attend school, we are here to support you and your child can continue to attend for as long as they need to. But if you entitled to a place but you do not really need to use it, please consider the safety and wellbeing of every member of our school community and keep your child at home. Home is the safest place for everyone to be. The Government has made is clear that a return to normal life will be achieved more quickly by as many people as possible remaining at home.

This is a challenging time for us all, and we must continue to work together to make sure we keep everyone safe. Please therefore let us know if you will no longer need a place for your child, or the number of days you will be sending them to school can reduce.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via Class Dojo, email to head3301@welearn365.com or by contacting the school office (Junior site) during school hours should you wish to discuss this any further. Thank you all for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

K. O'Grady
Mrs K O'Grady
Head of School