



January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Thank you for your patience this week after the government announcement confirming school closures. Many parents have been in touch in the past few days regarding access to the in-school provision so this letter is to clarify what is available and to whom, and the procedures to follow if you wish to apply for a place.

Government advice remains that the safest place for a child to be is at home, supervised and accessing remote learning provided by their teachers. The latest guidance document states that 'limiting attendance at school is about supporting the reduction of the overall number of social contacts in our communities'. However, schools have been instructed to remain open for vulnerable students and the children of 'critical workers'. Further information about the definitions of these groups can be found [here](#) or by accessing the QR code below.

Whilst we are hoping to provide a place for as many children as possible, it is important to understand that we have very limited capacity in our in-school provision. This is because throughout the normal school day our teachers are delivering remote learning including live lessons, and are also engaged in making phone calls to pupils to check on their well-being. Numbers are also limited by the need to maintain social distancing in line with our risk assessment which is of increasing importance during this period of national lockdown. This week we have seen an increasing demand for places and we are already over-subscribed, so it is important that we explain the following:

- Your child will only be guaranteed a place on a week-to-week basis.
- If your child has been given a place this week, that doesn't guarantee them a place for next week. Our ongoing analysis of priority will continue in the background.
- As teachers are busy delivering online lessons, non-teaching staff have volunteered to support students as they complete remote-learning in school. It is important to remind you that your child will not receive formal taught sessions in school, rather they will complete their remote learning in a supervised classroom.
- The government has insisted that certain students must come in to school. We will therefore have to offer places to these students first.
- If you accept a place and your child does not attend without a valid reason, the place will be given to another student.
- Students are required to follow uniform and behaviour expectations every day. We are operating a strict policy of withdrawing places if we feel that students are disrupting the learning of others and/or not learning themselves.
- Critical workers will need to send us proof of their role. This could be a letter from an employer or proof of photo ID.

Every week a form will be available via Edulink for you to complete to request a place for the following week. We will confirm spaces by Friday at 4pm each week. If you have not yet downloaded the Edulink app please can I ask you to sign up as soon as possible or use the email address: keyworker@smrchs.com to request a place. We cannot guarantee places for any child and our arrangements may change if we have positive cases within our bubbles.

Finally, can I thank you for your continued support and ask that you encourage your child to complete their remote learning each day to the best of their ability. The government has now asked us to formally report on engagement in learning and so registers will be taken for accessing sessions and submitting work.

If you have any questions please email me using the key worker address above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. E. Passarello'.

Mr A Passarello
Deputy Headteacher



***Point your camera
at me***