



CEO:

c/o The NSPCC Training Centre, 3 Gilmour
Close, Leicester. LE3 1EZ

T: 0116 318 4066

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing this letter on behalf of your Headteacher with a plea. Over the last few days, our schools have seen large numbers of children attending daily education, accessing places either as a vulnerable child or as a child of a critical worker. These numbers are significantly higher than earlier lockdowns, mainly because, only one parent needs to be a critical worker in a family to attend school during this most recent lockdown.

The increased pupil numbers attending are proving to be extremely challenging for schools to operate safely whilst at the same time deliver full remote learning to children working from home. Our schools are diligently following the guidance available to them, but it is getting increasingly difficult to organise safer smaller bubble structures, staffing rotas and remote learning because of the volume of children attending. In the next coming days and weeks, our schools may not be able to sustain this level of attendance as well as keep our staff safe and deliver the level of education that everyone deserves, and some tough decisions may have to be made. Therefore, I am asking in the spirit of National lockdown, that critical worker parents only take up a space in school if it is vital and they have no other way to support their child at home.

“The single most important action we can all take is to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives”

We need to ensure that those people and children who absolutely need a space in school get one when they need one. We of course will do everything within our power to continue to provide Wrap Around Care for critical worker families, during school term and during holiday periods as well as ensuring our schools remain open for vulnerable and critical worker families that need it.

I completely understand the challenges you are facing and as a parent and an educator want children in school wherever safely possible. I have been humbled by the dedication of our staff this week. They are highly committed to providing children with the best education possible during these circumstances and have worked relentlessly over the last few days. I have no doubt that had the picture been clearer and with more notice, all 13 of our schools would have been open much earlier this week and I thank you for your patience. Yesterday, it was reported that 300 University Hospital London staff were unable to work because they were unable to access child places in schools. Thankfully, this was not the situation for NHS parents of our Trust, who were able to send their children to school to continue to work on the frontline, along with all our critical worker parents. However, I do not want this situation to change and ask that if you are able to educate your child from home, please keep them at home. Our schools will continue to provide full remote learning to them. We need to safely sustain school places for those in vital need for the long term.

As always, I and my Trust colleagues am very grateful for your support and understanding. We are blessed to work with amazing families and thank you for your ongoing understanding and support. Our deepest thanks go to all the critical workers, we will do our best to work with you for the long term to ensure all children are well supported during this period.

Yours sincerely

Paul Stone
Trust Leader