

Bushey Heath Primary School

Headteacher Penny Barefoot



Respect, Encourage and Achieve

12 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Attendance During Lockdown

As you may be aware, we have a much larger number of children attending school during this lockdown than previously. Currently our attendance stands at 39% across the school (with 50% in Year 2 and 67% in Nursery).

It is our priority to accommodate all pupils who are considered vulnerable, including those with an EHCP or with a social worker. In addition, we can also provide face-to-face learning to children of critical workers essential to the COVID-19 response and EU transition.

However, we are now reaching capacity in several classes, which is making it increasingly challenging to social distance our children and staff during their lessons.

The School has been advised by the government that infection rates are alarmingly high. The NHS is at near full capacity and they need their workers in hospitals. For the national lockdown to be effective, it is important that numbers attending schools are kept as low as possible whilst allowing those who really need to be in school to have access to places.

We are reminding parents and carers that all of us, including children, should stay at home unless necessary, and you should only send children into school if there is no way they can stay at home and learn remotely. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker are eligible for a school place. It is not necessary for both parents to be critical workers. However, if there is an adult working at home or able to take leave from their non-critical job, this will be deemed as a safe alternative. You may also consider sending your child/ren for some days, but not every day.

Please consider the needs of children who cannot safely stay at home because of their personal circumstances or additional needs and those working on the frontline in health and social care, education and in community protection that cannot work remotely when choosing whether you really need to send your child/ren into school.

The School recognises that everyone's circumstances are different, but we would ask you to carefully consider whether you need a full-time critical worker place or not.

Moving forward, we will be requesting evidence to verify the critical workers' status of parents/carers, e.g., badge/payslip from your employer.

We encourage children who would be considered vulnerable, including those with an EHCP, to continue to attend school. If you believe that your child falls under the vulnerable category and would like to discuss their attendance, then please contact your teacher who will be happy to advise.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. If you no longer want your child/ren to attend school or you wish to change the pattern of their attendance, please email the office on admin@busheyheathjm.herts.sch.uk

Kind regards

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