



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed



Thursday 7th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to clarify our position with regards to support for vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers.

As I mentioned in my letter yesterday, our numbers are larger than expected and this is placing a huge strain on staffing resources and is limiting the effectiveness of our provision for those in school and at home. More crucially, we are unable to adopt effective social distancing protocols and as a result we are placing our school community at risk.

You may be aware that our 2 partner schools (St Nicholas and Codsall Middle) are particularly overwhelmed with numbers.

In the continued absence of Government recognition and advice, the 3 schools will have to limit attendance to enable us to continue to work safely and effectively.

Our policy across the 3 schools will be as follows:

- 100% of vulnerable children will be allocated a place to attend school.
- 100% of children who have both parents who are key workers, (or if you are a single parent and are a key worker) will be allocated a place.

Once we have ascertained our numbers using this criteria, we will continue to allocate additional places.

As it stands, there is no need for any pupil who is currently attending Birches First School this week to stay at home.

I will confirm your child's attendance by THIS AFTERNOON 7/1/21 at 4pm for week commencing 11th January.

However, this may change if numbers continue to increase. I may also have to restrict numbers if staff fall ill and are unable to attend.

I am well aware of the difficulties we are all encountering during this time. Please can I repeat my request that you continue to do all you can to limit the numbers who are attending school. By working pro-actively in this way, every child who needs a place will be able to continue to attend.

To assist with my planning, could I ask all parents to ensure they complete the survey which will be sent out EVERY Tuesday morning to have it completed the following day Wednesday at 9.30am.

Best wishes

S Varricchione

Headteacher