



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed



6th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Due to the significant number of children who have requested a place in school as a child of a Critical Worker, we are now required request that parents provide evidence of their Critical Worker status from their employer. A Critical Worker status letter, copy of a wage slip (please obscure confidential information) or identity badge can be emailed confidentially to office@birches.staffs.sch.uk by Friday 8th January. Please ensure your email clearly states the name and year group of your child. I would like to make parents aware that it may also be necessary for school to make contact with your employer.

The job roles that fall into the Critical Worker category have been updated since the guidance was first produced in March 2020 and we ask that parents ensure they read the following guidance in full;

[Children of critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings](#)

We ask that parents only send their child to school under the Critical Worker category if there are no other childcare options available. **The government guidance is clear - people who can stay at home should.** We all want school to reopen as soon as it is safe to do so but currently it is necessary to reduce the number of children in school in order to reduce the rate of transmission. By doing this, we will be helping the national effort to finally bring this virus under control.

A link to book your child into school next week has been sent today. Depending on demand, it may become necessary for school to prioritise places to ensure we are able to manage risk and best protect the safety of those children attending and staff.

Priority will be given to;

1) Children classed as vulnerable

2) Children with TWO Critical Worker parents (or ONE in the case of single parent families.)

We hope that prioritisation will not become necessary however we hope you understand the position we find ourselves in and thank you for your understanding.

Best wishes

S. Varricchione

Headteacher