

Sparsholt C. E. Primary School

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Tuesday, 05 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Due to the incredible seriousness of the Covid 19 pandemic and especially the increased transmissibility of the new Covid variant amongst children, the Government, as you are aware, made the very difficult decision to close schools and for remote learning to be provided during the period of closure.

As with the last lockdown, parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and who will find it impossible to provide care for their children at home or by using support or child care bubbles; pupils who are considered vulnerable; and those who have an Educational, Health and Care plan (EHCP) will be able to attend school if needed.

Please follow this link for information on creating a child care bubble with other families you do not live with: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-childcare-bubble-with-another-household>

Whilst this provision is available, we would ask that parents only send their children into school if it is **absolutely necessary**. The Government's decision to close schools and the very strong message from Boris Johnson last night that people **MUST** stay at home, shows how important it is for parents to really consider whether their children can remain at home during this period.

In addition, due to the increased transmissibility of the new variant, the more children we have in the school, the more risk they not only pose to each other but more importantly to their families including those who are critical to the Covid response and of course the school staff and their families.

If you believe you qualify as a Critical worker and you absolutely need your child to be in school during this period, please can you email adminoffice@sparsholt.hants.sch.uk and provide the following information.

- 1) Your role and how it is critical to the Covid 19 response
- 2) The name of the organisation you work for.
- 3) The address and telephone number of your work place.
- 4) A letter from your employer stating that your role is critical to the Covid 19 response.
- 5) What days you need your child/children to attend.

After we have received this information, we will then be able to assess eligibility for in-school provision.

If you need further guidance as to whether you would be considered as Critical worker, guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#critical-workers>

This is a very difficult time for all of us and we do really need parents to consider what is best in terms of not only the health and safety of their children but also of the wider community.

We thank you for your support.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Hanratty



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