

13<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parent,

Further to the Prime Minister's announcement of a third national lockdown on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021, we have been working hard to support children's learning by providing activities to complete at home or offering face to face lessons for those who are eligible and want a place. The overall national guidance can be found [here](#) and information about which children can continue to physically attend school is [here](#). The advice about the children of critical workers or those classified as 'vulnerable' was updated on 8<sup>th</sup> January, to remind parents who are critical workers to 'keep their children at home if they can'.

The number of critical worker parents choosing to send their children into school is much higher than the national lockdown in March. We have now reached the point where some of our classes are so full that we cannot achieve the primary aim of the national lockdown, which is to reduce transmission of COVID and the risk of children acting as 'vectors' for its transmission. Some classes have now exceeded their capacity and we do not have enough staff to make alternative arrangements. I am therefore seeking your help in trying to reduce numbers. As a first step, could I politely request that any families where there are two parents but only one is a critical worker to keep their child(ren) at home? I can assure you that suitable work will be provided and teachers will be available to help.

I very much hope we can achieve the necessary reduction without the need to enforce rules. However, if we cannot reduce numbers further, we will use the following priority criteria:

1. Vulnerable children, as per the Department for Education definition.
2. Children where both parents are key workers and unable to change working patterns or single parent families where the parent is a key worker and unable to supervise during the school day, e.g. unable to work from home.
3. Children where both parents are key workers or a single parent who is a key worker.
4. Children where one of two parents is a key worker

In practice, this means we may have to ask children in category 4 to learn at home. We will certainly need confirmation as to why pupils in category 4 cannot remain at home and will contact you for a further explanation. We are reluctant to enforce these categories but may have to do so if we cannot reduce the number of children attending lessons to a safe number. Please support us as much as we can.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have questions about any of the points raised in this letter or if there are other factors that we need to be aware of if we have to enforce the priority lists. My staff and I would be delighted to help.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Mr Gough

Head of School



01274 028613



Heaton Avenue, A SHARE Primary Academy  
South Parade, Cleckheaton  
West Yorkshire BD19 3AE



heatonavenue.office  
@sharemat.co.uk



heatonavenue.co.uk

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**Head Office** SHARE Multi-Academy Trust, c/o Shelley College, Huddersfield Road, Shelley, Huddersfield, HD8 8NL