



Our Vision

To inspire a love of learning

St Gilbert's Church of England Primary School

Foundry Road Stamford Lincolnshire PE9 2PP

5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, thank you to you all for your overwhelming support. Further to the Prime Minister's announcement and my letter to you last night, I am writing to gauge the numbers of children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils who will require a place in school.

Schools have still not received any detailed guidance from the government about the lockdown and its impact on school organisation. What is absolutely clear though is that infections rates are rising and it is now even more important that everyone's first priority should be to ensure they have the least possible contact with others in the local community. This statement cannot be underestimated. We do not want to be responsible for any further transmission of the virus through our pupils or staff. The Prime Minister has asked for all who can work from home, to stay at home, and therefore keep their children safely indoors. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home, should be.**

What is apparent is that this is similar to the March to May lockdown and therefore, I am currently planning on introducing more stringent safety measures in school which were in place at this time last year.

As you are aware, during this period of national lockdown, vulnerable children and children of critical workers are eligible for a school place.

Identified vulnerable pupils are considered to be children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Critical workers are detailed through the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>.

If parents think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service, only one parent needs to be a critical worker.

However, if the parent of a vulnerable child or a parent who is a critical worker prefers or is able to keep their child at home during this period, absence will be authorised as per the information we have received from government. Therefore, it is not mandatory that all pupils within these two groups attend school.

We would like to reiterate that every child who can be safely cared for at home, should be.

Please can you advise the school by completing the form sent separately as to whether you work in one of these sectors and also whether you require care for your child as defined by the Government, whether you have contacted us already or not. Evidence from your employers will be required.

Please respond by 2pm today. We will then send a separate communication to those attending school.

As the school is now closed for most pupils, the teaching staff have been working very hard to prepare work for all those children who will be absent during this period.

Remote Learning will begin tomorrow for all those pupils working from home.

We will do our very best to support and guide our school community through this difficult time. Thank you once again for your support and understanding. On behalf of the staff and Board of Governors, every good wish for the coming weeks. Keep safe and well, and I will be in touch with you once I have further news.

Any changes to this advice will be communicated to parents via Parentmail and our school website.

Kind regards



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