



Pride in ourselves,
pride in our school,
pride in our community.

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15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to thank you for all that you are doing to support your children at home at this time and for the roles that many of you are playing in the response to COVID-19 in the country. Just keeping your children occupied and entertained would be a challenge at this time but I am very grateful for your efforts in supporting their remote learning during this national lockdown.

It has come to light that, despite letters from Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedfordshire Schools Trust and the school, we still have pupils coming into school who could stay at home. As I said, I know the challenges that this lockdown presents, and the threat to children's wellbeing and education, but I must prioritise the safety and wellbeing of a large pupil population, their families, and a tightly stretched team of staff who are providing education in class and remote learning at home simultaneously. If there is an adult at home, although sadly your child's learning might suffer, there won't be many circumstances when the child should not stay at home. To remind you, Government policy is, "*Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.*"

Information from the DfE also states, "*Schools should speak to parents and carers to identify who needs to go to school. If it proves necessary, schools can ask for simple evidence that the parent in question is a critical worker, such as their work ID badge or pay slip. Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.*"

As the government's [criteria for eligibility](#) has broadened, reducing the benefit of school closure for many, I must now request more details from every parent who intends to send their child into school. I must also ask for evidence that you are a critical worker, if that is the reason why your child cannot stay at home. Please can you complete these two actions by Tuesday 19th January at 1:00pm?

The form to fill in can be found here:

[GMA survey of critical workers and the parents of vulnerable children](#)

The folder to which you can upload your critical worker evidence is here:

[GMA Critical Worker Evidence Jan 2021](#)

I apologise for asking for this. I know the demands on your time already, but I must do what I can to provide as safe an environment as is possible for those children and staff in school who have no choice but to be here. If it is not clear to us that your child cannot stay at home, or that going to school is not required, after submitting these forms, we will be in touch to further clarify your situation.

Yours sincerely

Mr Thomas Clarke
Principal

Principal: Thomas Clarke
Vice Principal: Nicola Davis
Chair of Governors: Jo Graves



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