



Ancaster
Church of England Primary School

5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your ongoing patience and support as we had to take the decision to close the school at such short notice to make the necessary arrangements following the national lockdown that is now in place. This means that the school is now only open for the children of Critical Workers whose roles and responsibilities are crucial to the pandemic response as well as children who hold an EHCP, have a registered Social Worker or are classed as Vulnerable by way of the official Government definition. A list of the jobs that fall into Key Worker categories can be seen by accessing the following list. [Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/critical-workers-and-vulnerable-children-who-can-access-schools-or-educational-settings)

It is important that we reiterate the 'Stay at Home' message that is now firmly in place and whilst parents may feel that sending your child to school is your best option and for some this may be the case, but the reason that school has now closed is to greatly reduce the number of contacts that each household comes into contact with. For this reason, I would urge you to seriously consider if your child needs to attend the school based provision. If there is another parent in the household who is able to care for your child, I have to be incredibly honest and say that this is a far better option in keeping your child as safe as possible.

Parents and carers should note that the school day will look very different to that in which the children are used to attending. Numbers of children will be greatly reduced meaning the children will potentially not be in their usual classroom environment, possibly not with their friends or with their usual class staff. They will also be in groups of mixed age children, which will change every day depending on the need of the parents and carers during each week. There will be learning opportunities built into each day but the staff will not have the opportunity to focus on all of the different elements that are being set by individual classes via remote learning as the group in which your child may be working will have a range of children aged between 4-11 years old and there will also be small numbers of staff on site to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing needs of the pupils are balanced alongside their educational needs.

Included with this communication is a Pupil Registration Form. Before we can offer any place, we will ask that this is completed in full and sent back to us by 12pm today. Applications received after this time will be considered and an alternative start date may be agreed. Please accept our apologies for having to move quickly on this-as I mentioned in my communication last night, this is not the way in which we usually work and we want to ensure that we have everything in place for a swift turnaround tomorrow. Parents should also note that we do not have extensive places for Key Worker provision. We are having to balance the health and safety of everyone involved, which includes staff and children and if we reach numbers which make the provision unsustainable in maintaining overall health and safety during this lockdown, we may have to place children onto a waiting list until a place becomes available.

Please can I ask that you seriously consider the best possible arrangements for your child over the course of this lockdown prior to requesting a place. We want to ensure that there is provision available for those that truly need it in order to ensure that those parents and carers whose work is critical and crucial to the pandemic response can continue. Thank you once again for your patience-the care and support we receive from our parent body makes us feel so lucky to be working alongside you during this difficult time.

Yours Sincerely,
Mr Sam Eden
Headteacher

Ancaster Church of England Primary School
Mercia Drive Grantham NG32 3QQ

Tel: 01400 230871 Email: enquiries@ancaster.lincs.sch.uk Web: www.ancasterprimary.org.uk
Head Teacher: Mr Sam Eden