

Larchwood Gardens
Pilgrims Hatch
Brentwood
Essex CM15 9NG



T: 01277 372450
E: office@larchwood.essex.sch.uk
W: www.LarchwoodPrimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr.S.Bowsher

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Dear Parent / Carer

As we start the second week of the new term I writing with regards to the Critical Worker provision.

The Government has updated its latest guidance for critical workers:

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

During the first lockdown our Critical Worker provision had between 4 and 15 children attending daily. We have seen a much bigger increase in uptake this time as have other schools across the country. Last week this was around 70 children on most days. This figure has risen to just under 90 children attending every day this week. This is nearly 25% of the school population.

These children are of course not mixing in a big group and are in their year groups bubbles, however we are mindful that we don't want these groups to be too large.

I know a number of you have had conversations with either myself or other members of the leadership team about the provision and are only using it on the days that you absolutely need to. What I would stress is the following point in the guidance:

Parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.

I'm sure the majority of you are already following this principle, but if there is a member of the household who is at home and not working or is working but is able to support with remote learning too then children should be at home and accessing remote learning.

Ultimately, the more children we have in school the greater the risk that children may unknowingly be passing the virus between households. Although the virus is very mild in children, the effects it has on adults is greater.

If we have a positive case in a member of a bubble, then the bubble will have to close. This will mean that critical workers will have to be at home with their children. I am aware of a number of Essex schools that have had to do this already.

I don't want to discourage anyone from using the provision because we are there to serve our community and so many of you are doing fantastic work to support the fight against the virus. However, if you feel you can keep your children at home full time or even some days, please do.

If you wish to make changes to your use of the provision, please contact the school office.

Mr S Bowsher
Headteacher

