

7th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year - my usual opening greeting for the first letter of the year - feels inappropriate in this current climate; let's hope 'happiness' and a return to normal life is with us all as soon as possible.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday evening, we texted you with the information that we would open on Tuesday for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. This text was sent following the government guidance and knowing that during Lockdown One we had on average 12 children in school each day.

Following the guidance, vulnerable children have priority and as such, places will always be available to them.

However, we have been inundated with requests for critical worker places and as the numbers are growing daily, we are rapidly approaching a situation where it is difficult to guarantee the safety of the children, staff and community.

I cannot stress strongly enough the importance of children staying at home, wherever possible, in order to minimise the risk of spreading the new and highly contagious Covid variant.

School will remain open **only for those children of critical workers who absolutely need to attend**. A place will only be available on the days the critical worker is working. If one parent is at home, working or not, the child should remain at home. Due to the high number of families requesting places for critical workers, from Monday 11th January we will require proof of the days the critical worker in the family is working. Please email admin@vernonpark.stockport.sch.uk a copy of your shift pattern, or a letter of confirmation from your employer of Monday to Friday employment, in order for your child/children to attend Vernon Park Primary during Lockdown Three and be admitted from Monday 11th January 2021.

If a reduction in the number of families requesting places and children attending school is not forthcoming, then we will have look at each request more closely and may even have to move to only offering places to critical worker children who are from single parent families and children from families where both parents are critical workers.

Please be aware that if you live in a household with anyone aged under 14, you can form a childcare bubble. This allows friends or family from one other household to provide informal childcare. Further information can be found in the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-childcare-bubble-with-another-household>

If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be, as the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk for us all.

Please help us to support the critical workers who need a school place in order to carry out their vital work.

Many thanks.

Take care and stay safe.

Claire E Lee
Head Teacher