

12th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Critical Worker Places

I am writing to inform you that we have now reached **full capacity** for 'critical worker' places at St. Bede with all the staff working extremely hard to either provide face to face teaching, or remote learning. We are concerned that if we were to increase pupil numbers further we could increase chances of a bubble closure, due to the number of staff and pupils on site. During the past lockdown in March we had a considerably lower number of pupils on site; this was due to tighter restrictions in the guidance for critical/key worker places.

Do I need to accept my 'critical worker' place?

All families with one critical worker are eligible for a school place. However, if your family are in the position that you can keep your children at home (as you or your partner is able to work from home) we **urge you to consider this carefully**. We understand that working from home whilst trying to educate your children is extremely hard work. Staff have also been in the same position and fully appreciate the difficulties. However, we are concerned that higher numbers of pupils on site could increase the chance of transmission, resulting in bubble closures. If you have been telephoned by a member of staff and have been offered a place for your child and you are not a 'critical worker', it is of the upmost importance that your child still attends school.

What if I need a 'critical worker' place in the future?

If you find that you are eligible for a school place, as you or your partner meet the 'critical worker' guidance, ([Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)), please click on the following link [Critical Worker Place](#) and complete the form. Requests for places will be reviewed each Monday; your child's name will be placed on a reserve list and, if a place becomes available, we will inform you.

Thank You!

We want to thank you again for being so understanding during this difficult time. We were given short notice last week about the school (part) closure and you were all extremely accommodating. We have received lovely letters, emails and verbal feedback which has really kept our spirits up, and is much needed and appreciated.

The staff at St. Bede are proud to support the NHS and 'critical workers' in the fight against coronavirus, and come to work each day willing to put their anxieties to one side to provide for your children, both face to face and remotely. I am extremely proud of the St. Bede family and want to take this opportunity to thank them for their resilience and determination during this time.

Thank you again to all of our St. Bede Families for your support.

Kind Regards,

Mrs S Rostron
Head of School

Learning, Caring, Growing Together

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