

## North Duffield Community Primary School

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13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents

The past ten months have been difficult for us all in different ways during the Coronavirus pandemic. The number of infections is in its tens of thousands and the number of people sadly losing their lives is increasing rapidly each day. The latest Government data and advice from the scientists is that we are in the "worst part" of the virus and could be for the next couple of weeks. The message is very clear you "MUST STAY HOME" unless it is "ESSENTIAL" to leave your house, thereby reducing the number of other people outside your household you come into contact with.

With this in mind, and in line with our risk assessment, we constantly review our safety measures for staff and pupils. This includes the number of places for pupils we can safely accommodate in school. At present we have nearly forty pupils, nearly treble the amount we had in the first lockdown, this is neither safe or sustainable for staff and children as the numbers continue to rise.

Whilst we understand that parents in critical roles need to go to work and home schooling for some can be challenging, the risks to yourself, your child and the staff increase when more people come to school. The school is here to support you with home schooling, all staff are available everyday via email or google classroom and will reply as soon as they can. Please remember that staff are also working in school with the children of critical workers so may not be able to reply instantly. We are not able to offer places to any children whose parents are not critical workers or have already been identified by us as needing a place. We have an excellent Pastoral Officer who will, if required, contact you with further advice and support. We are now in the process of reducing the number of vulnerable children in school to ensure we can offer places to children of critical workers, changing the bubbles to further minimise the risks and we will ask for evidence of work patterns and rotas from critical workers to enable us to continue to provide essential provision for those children and families who absolutely need it. We would ask parents again to only ask for a place at school when it is ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY and ESSENTIAL. We have a duty of care for the pupils and the staff at North Duffield School in this difficult time.

If you have been accepted by school as a critical worker and require to change the day(s) of your child's attendance then please contact the office by no later than 1pm on the Friday of the week prior and only ask for the days you absolutely need. If you do not request a place by the Friday then your child will not have a place for the following week, as staffing and areas need to be arranged before the weekend. Further information about the revised bubbles starting Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January will be sent before the weekend. I thank you for your co-operation and support in these difficult times. Please remember "STAY HOME, PROTECT THE NHS, SAVE LIVES" Useful website and information

Kind regards Mr Russell

