



5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you all as people who have indicated that they are requesting critical worker provision and once again asking for your support during these extremely challenging circumstances. In school, we are working under a great deal of pressure and the expectations on staff to deliver educational provision to those in school and at home alongside the cleaning rotas, duties in school, planning two lots of learning, organising and distributing and organising free school meals and online support for families and children who are at home is a significant amount to ask from any professional. We are and will continue to do our best for our school community so please be patient with us.

Thank you for your responses on the form last night and this morning. You have indicated that you are a critical worker and require a place at school during the **National Lockdown**. At the moment, we have well over 50% of parents requesting a place in school. This is not an appropriate amount to ensure we follow the new guidance and reduce the number of children and adults in school. If we operated with 50% and in some classes 75% of children in each class we would be putting each group at a high risk of catching COVID and at a very high risk of having to isolate for repeated isolation periods. We would also be jeopardising many families and putting lives at risk. It has been recognised now that the new variant is between 50 and 70% more transmittable, our hospitals are under more pressure from COVID than at any time since the start of the pandemic. The Prime Minister acknowledged last night that schools are vectors of transmission causing the virus to spread rapidly between households.

I want nothing more than to have all children in school, however it has been documented that this is not safe to do, not just for the children but for the wider community and I ask at this time that you consider the bigger picture for our country. If you are working from home, I know it will be difficult to manage your own child's remote learning. We have not stipulated the work has to be completed during school hours so if families feel they would rather complete the work in the evening and at weekends we would totally understand. We do have Google Meet sessions with the teacher and if parents working from home are struggling to support remote learning/access to the internet we may be able to offer some support. Under the current guidance, we will not be able to enable key worker children to attend every day but only on the days in which parents are working or on rota. Another survey has now been added to School Spider which needs to be completed as soon as possible today and by 2pm.

The government is continuing to allow families to have a childcare bubble. Many families have taken up this option and this is a good way of providing childcare during school closure.

Apologies for this letter today but it is essential that we collate the information as soon as possible. If you cannot access the survey please contact the school office.



Head teacher: Mrs Natalie Longstaff  
Britannia Primary School, Rochdale Road, Britannia, Bacup, Lancashire OL13 9TS  
Tel: 01706 874447 Email: [bursar@britannia.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@britannia.sch.uk) Web: [www.BritanniaPrimary.co.uk](http://www.BritanniaPrimary.co.uk)



In order to ensure the school only has children of CRITICAL TO THE COVID RESPONSE parents in school and all other options have been explored. I am asking that you complete this next survey and the questions are detailed below.

I confirm that I am asking school to provide a key worker place for my child. Yes/No

Please can you confirm that whilst your child is taking a place in school there is no adult at home?

There is no adult at home

There is an adult at home

Please can you confirm that you have no Childcare Bubble support? (If you answer no this means that you have no childcare support so you would therefore be bringing your child to school and collecting them each day)

I have no Childcare Bubble

I have a Childcare Bubble

Many Key Workers work on a rota basis. Please can you indicate below the days you NEED your child to attend school so you can carry out your CRITICAL KEY WORKER ROLE. (I.e. the days you have no one within your household to be with your child at home.) We may need a letter from your supervisor to confirm these days.

6th January

7th January

8th January

11th January

12th January

13th January

14th January

15th January

We understand that many CRITICAL TO THE COVID RESPONSE parents will be working extended hours during this difficult period. Please can parents indicate which days they will require Breakfast and After School Club? The decision about Breakfast and After School Club will be made based upon the numbers alongside the BEST Club Team.

If the numbers remain overly high and the governors do not feel we have the capacity to have such a high number of pupils in school we will have to prioritise places. These will firstly be allocated to vulnerable pupils then children with a parent in hospital. After that, we will look at Critical Keyworker children who have two parents in this role, etc.

Yours faithfully

Natalie Longstaff

Headteacher