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Dear Parents/Carers,

CHANGES TO GUIDANCE FOR CRITICAL WORKERS

As we are all acutely aware, the situation is pretty desperate regarding the transmission of Covid 19. We also know that the impact of this is being felt in the NHS and through the alarming number of deaths. We are told that 33% of those with the virus have no symptoms and yet can easily transmit the virus. The more people are in contact with others, the more it spreads into our homes. Every single death is a tragedy for every family and now over 80 000 have suffered this loss.

Here at school, in the previous lockdown, we kept our bubbles to a maximum of 15. This meant that we could keep children, particularly from Y2 to Y6 well-spaced inside the building. It also meant that we could limit the numbers of staff on site. Currently with 200 children attending, it means that we have all the staff working on site to spread the children across the school.

As you know my team and I have dedicated ourselves to keeping our community safe while providing the best possible experience for our children on site or at home. We all want to get all the children back to school as soon as possible. The only way this is going to happen sooner rather than later is, if as a nation we can turn around the incidence of the virus and the numbers entering hospitals.

On Friday, the Department for Education updated guidance for schools regarding Critical Workers. DfE Guidance now states that "parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (covid-19) and EU transition response includes those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the link below. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school if required, **but parents/carers should keep their children at home if at all possible**"

Following the changes to the guidance on Friday, East Riding of Yorkshire Council issued a statement on Sunday, which I sent to you last week, asking for Critical Workers to keep their children at home if at all possible and only send them to school if their occupation is critical to the response and they are unable to do this job and keep their children at home. They go on to state that together we need to try and minimise the number of children in our schools and make sure we prioritise places for our vulnerable children and those of Critical Workers who have no other option than to request a school place.

Initially, I asked that critical workers come into school every day to aid learning. This cannot be the case now as we need to get numbers in school down. We require you to send your children when you are working away from home. So, we are requiring you to indicate the days your child will be attending each week. If you are part-time, please indicate the days you require and if you have rotas/shifts and these change each week, can you inform us by 11am on Friday of any changes to your child's attendance for the following week by contacting office@kirkella.eriding.net.

Many schools are having to change their stance for the same reasons I have given. I have completed forms for my own children's school as they will be required to be at home for two days next week while my wife is on a rota from her school. She will still be providing learning from home as a teacher while home-schooling our own children, as will I when I get home.

This is a difficult time for everyone. We need to try and keep everyone safe as much as possible. Please keep your



children off school if you are at home. I understand that there are pressures from work but many of the children in the older age groups should be able to manage the online learning themselves and will require little supervision. The teachers are trying their best to ensure the learning in school mirrors the learning sent out to those at home.

Yours sincerely

Mr Church