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St. Andrew's C.P. School



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Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been inundated with requests for key worker places, so much so that some classes have a very high percentage of pupils. We currently have 198 children in school with 254 registered. The whole rationale for the government lockdown is to drastically reduce contact and interaction and above all else, reduce the risk to us all. **This is why we need to close for keyworker applications from 12pm today until we have further guidance from the government.** Last time we were told to keep class sizes to 15 children and this would put us at our limit. It is only sensible that we pause for further applications until we get further clarity.

**Please can parents be considerate, if your roles enable one parent to work at home, please do not use a place at school and keep children home with you.** The key worker places are designed to assist hospitals, police, social services, supermarkets, and schools. Were we believe a parent is at home we will contact you over the next few days if your child continues to be in school. It is important we all follow the government guidelines to 'stay at home'.

We understand the difficulties some parents are facing trying to juggle childcare and thank you to all those that are trying to do this. However, employers should be encouraging working from home were possible. The key worker status is set out in the link I sent the other day and this does not apply to anyone working full time or part time who needs child care. It is only for those parents/carers that are eligible.

Below is a link which has some information on options available for employees faced with childcare issues.

[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-which-employees-you-can-put-on-furlough-to-use-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme?fbclid=IwAR0OV07kzZiZN1WFhImx7\\_BObpSytpEkhJQvO0hBwjNimi7tphRe5l5h7vg#other-types-of-employees-you-can-claim-for](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-which-employees-you-can-put-on-furlough-to-use-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme?fbclid=IwAR0OV07kzZiZN1WFhImx7_BObpSytpEkhJQvO0hBwjNimi7tphRe5l5h7vg#other-types-of-employees-you-can-claim-for)

[Check which employees you can put on furlough to use the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#)

Find out which employees you can put on furlough and claim for through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

Please be aware that the teachers are using their time in school to teach the children and using teaching assistants to support the children while they are also engaging and sharing work with children staying at home. Obviously, this becomes increasingly more difficult the more children we have in school.

I share parents/carers frustration with this. We are checking all our key worker lists and we can only use the guidance we have at present. We have not received any further support from the government since the announcement and we do not want this situation to be divisive. Please be aware that when we turn down a key worker application, we are not doing this because we want to, but to protect the children and staff in school and because we are trying to follow guidelines.

Hopefully, we will receive more clarity in the next few days. All we want is the children back in school learning, let us hope this is sooner rather than later.

Keep Safe,

Mr Church

