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7th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Critical Worker Provision

Having now had a couple of days to evaluate our current situation, it is necessary for us to write to you with regards to our Critical Worker provision offer.

We have been able to get a better idea of the number of Critical Worker children that are wanting to access the School's provision and in most classes the numbers are incredibly high. To give you a context, during the last lockdown we provided places for between 5–7% of our children. Today we have 33% of our children in school and, in some classes, more than 50% of children.

We are aware of some parents sending their child in when there is a parent at home who could provide supervision. For us, this poses a huge dilemma and a problem in that this defeats the object of a lockdown as so many children are in school. As a consequence, all staff have to be in school, meaning that they are having close contact with each other and then, ultimately, your families.

Government guidelines dictate that school should offer places to the children of Critical Workers, however, **'Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.'**

For this reason, we are having to request evidence/confirmation that both parents are working and are unable to have their child at home.

If you have already sent us evidence of Critical Worker status this week for both parents (or in the case of single parent families for the main carer) you do not need to send it again.

However, we are requesting that all other parents, who wish for their child to have a Critical Worker place, and who have not sent evidence this week, do so as soon as possible (eg a current letter from your employer) to: kw@swanlandschool.co.uk Please note that this also applies to those parents who were previously recorded with us as Critical Workers back in March 2020.

If the non-critical worker parent is also unable to home school their child(ren) because of work commitments, we need clarification of this to: kw@swanlandschool.co.uk as soon as possible.

Once we have received your evidence/clarification, if we are not satisfied that you are unable to keep your child at home, we will be advising you that your child cannot take up a Critical Worker place in school.

In view of the above, we would please urge you to think carefully about whether you need to send your child in to school. At the moment, children who are working from home are being set an online or recorded curriculum with check-in sessions, whilst the children in school are receiving the same curriculum and are being supervised by our support staff.

We understand how obtrusive this might seem, but we find ourselves in a very difficult situation, which is proving a challenge to manage. It is absolutely not within our nature to want to tell a child they cannot attend school, but it is felt that as a small minority of parents are abusing the system, we are left with no option but to have to ask.

We are trying our best to support families within our community, whilst also trying to support the nation's efforts to arrest the further spread of this virus. The sooner it is under control, the sooner we will have all our children back in school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Hannah Stephenson
Head Teacher



CEO
Swanland Education Trust