

Tuesday 2nd June 2020

Information regarding arrangements for children of critical workers and others currently attending school

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Since March 23rd 2020, we have been closed for most pupils but remained open for your children to ensure that you are able to carry on your important work which is helping the fight against the spread of COVID 19 as well as providing support for some of our children and families who have needed it. Some of the children have attended since the start of lockdown and others have joined us more recently. As a school we have adapted as we have gone along, and I am grateful for the support of my staff at Parkland in ensuring your children have been well looked after and kept safe.

As we plan for further opening for key year groups, as requested by the Government, we have been busy planning and making changes to continue to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff. Therefore, there will also be changes for those pupils who are in the critical worker and vulnerable groups as we welcome growing numbers of children back to school. Due to these growing numbers, your child is now in a keyworker group for their year group. These are named KWEY, KW1, KW2 etc based on their year group.

We have produced a booklet for parents and carers to support your understanding of our arrangements and to share how we will be organising the school. This has been written in line with rigorous risk assessments we have, and continue to, carry out.

Teachers will be talking to your child/ children about the expectations, rules and routines that we have in place to keep everyone safe. **It is important that you read the booklet and discuss the information with your child.**

You will be aware of the classroom changes by now as well as drop off and collection points. I would also like to draw your attention to some of the other changes;

- If your child comes to school on a scooter or bike **this cannot be stored at school** and must be taken home by the parent/ carer at drop off. This is because we cannot ensure social distancing and store these in a safe place where children will not have access to them during the school day.
- Your child should not bring a book bag to school or any toys and resources. They should, where possible, wear their school uniform. We do expect that children's clothes will be washed at home after every day.
- School dinners will be in the form of a 'grab bag' and will be eaten in their classroom at their allocated space. It is our understanding that we are **no longer** able to provide free school meals for all critical worker and vulnerable pupils. We will only provide for those who are entitled to free school meals. If you would like your child to have a school dinner, please pay for these using ParentPay or alternatively provide them with a packed lunch.

As well as the booklet for parents, our risk assessment will also be shared with you on our school website in due course and no later than Wednesday once our documentation has been signed off by the Trust.

In order to help with our arrangements and ensure that we can provide a space for your child, Please ensure that you use the weekly online booking form that is sent out every Monday to be completed by the following Friday. We arrange groups and staffing for these groups in line with government guidance and based on the numbers of those who have booked. **If you do not book using this system, we cannot guarantee a place.** Can I also request that you provide evidence of your critical worker status from your employer if you have not already done so.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who are critical workers for the work you are doing to help keep us all safe and healthy during this pandemic. You are our heroes. Thank you for working with us and supporting the work that we are doing.

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay positive.

Yours sincerely,

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