

**Critical Workers**

4.1.2021

Dear parents/carers,

We have had a positive day training today, including reviewing our remote learning expectations and Risk Assessment. We understand that it is likely that we will need to move to remote learning this term, and perhaps soon, so we are collating information about critical workers to enable us to plan.

In the unfortunate case of a full lockdown/schools being asked to lockdown, we will remain open onsite for children who are in a vulnerable group and to those whose parents are critical workers. To find out if you are a critical worker, please see the current list of critical workers outlined at the end of this letter.

We will, of course, follow guidance given by Government/GCC if we move to this situation with regard to how to prioritise if the number of parents/carers wanting places exceeds our capacity. At present we do not have this guidance.

During the previous full lockdown, local schools prioritised children when critical worker places were over subscribed as outlined below:

* First, those in the vulnerable group (we know these children/families in our school already)
* Then families with two parents/carers who were both critical workers / single parent families where the single parent was a critical worker.
* After that, a tiered list of critical workers was used to prioritise.

We will follow this hierarchy if we are asked to move to remote learning/lockdown provision, unless new guidance is issued to us, so we have a clear system in place. The last time we moved to lockdown we did not need to use the critical worker prioritising list as we had enough provision in place to provide for the children with parents in the critical worker group.

In the event of full lockdown teachers will be working at home managing remote learning for their class. Vulnerable & Critical worker children provision on site will be led by the TA team – they have been incredibly flexible to enable us to run 2 critical worker hubs of 14 children within. Our provision is based on the logistics of staffing: supervision needed to support learning and keep children safe on site.

We will expect children to attend full days and if they are not able to attend we ask parents to phone Mrs Birch to let her know in the usual way as we will need to undertake attendance registers as usual.

When in school the vulnerable/critical worker children will access the same Zooms/lessons as children working from home. We have planned for this and though the TAs have not worked in this way they are ready and willing.

We aim to group children by age. The younger critical worker hub will work in C1 and enter/leave the school via the wooden Reception gate. The older critical worker hub will work in C5 and enter/leave the school via the main black metal gate. Drop off time will be 8.40 and pick up time 3.15 for all children as numbers will be small.

If you want a critical worker place at school for your child, we would like you to **complete and return the information below** **for each child you have** – see the below template – **by 12pm on 5th January**. If you think you are a critical worker we may ask for proof of this – a letter from your employer for example. Please return the forms to school as soon as possible using: class5@eastington.gloucs.sch.uk

The turn around time for the return is very short I am afraid. This is because we want to be prepared to open for critical worker/vulnerable children safely as soon as possible.

If an announcement is made this evening asking all schools to close, we will not be open to teach children on site on Tuesday. We will confirm places with parents/carers on Tuesday and re-organise resources so we are open for vulnerable and critical worker children on Wednesday. If the announcement tonight does not ask schools to close we will be open for all children tomorrow as usual.

With many thanks for your help in this matter,

Zoe Avastu

Headteacher

**Critical Workers**

**Please complete one form PER CHILD and return to school using:** **class5@eastington.gloucs.sch.uk** **.**

Name of child:

Child’s class:

Is at least one parent/carer a critical worker? Yes / No (delete appropriate)

If yes, are you a single parent/carer family? Yes / No (delete appropriate)

Are two parents/carers critical workers? Yes / No (delete appropriate)

If you have said yes to one or two parents / carers being a critical worker, please complete the table to show which tier each critical worker is in, as well as their job role:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Critical parent / carer 1 | Critical parent / carer 2 |
| Tier – see below |  |  |
| Job title |  |  |
| I can evidence my critical worker status if asked(letter from employer) |  |  |

Signed ………………………………………………………………………………. Date ……………………………………..

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**Parent Survey – Critical Workers**

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**Critical Workers who can access schools/educational settings -**

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

### Health and social care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK’s health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

### Education and childcare

This includes:

* childcare
* support and teaching staff
* social workers
* specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

### Key public services

This includes:

* those essential to the running of the justice system
* religious staff
* charities and workers delivering key frontline services
* those responsible for the management of the deceased
* journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

### Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of:

* the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
* essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), including in government agencies and arms length bodies

### Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food:

* production
* processing
* distribution
* sale and delivery
* as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

### Public safety and national security

This includes:

* police and support staff
* Ministry of Defence civilians
* contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
* fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
* National Crime Agency staff
* those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

### Transport and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure through which supply chains pass.

### Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes:

* staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
* the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
* information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
* key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
* postal services and delivery
* payments providers
* waste disposal sectors