

Walkley Primary School
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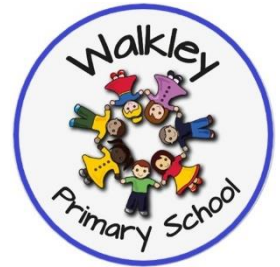
Email: enquiries@walkley.sheffield.sch.uk

Web: <http://www.walkley.sheffield.sch.uk>

Headteacher: Val Sian

Deputy Headteacher: Chris Wallis

Chair of the Governing Body: Andy Wilcock



'Enjoyment, Achievement and Learning for life...'

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

FOR ACTION – SURVEY for Information Required Regarding Vulnerable and Critical Worker Pupils due to Increased National Restrictions and Changes to School Opening

First of all, we would like to say thank you for your on-going co-operation in relation to operational and health and safety actions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. As you will be aware, we were planning to open school for all pupils on Friday 8th January. However, with infection rates changing across the country and the latest advice from government agencies in response to the pandemic, we must prepare our new school for the eventuality of partial school closure. Not what we had hoped for.

School will open to the pupils of critical workers and vulnerable pupils on Monday 11th January.

It is now the case that we must restrict which pupils can be on-site under the increased restrictions and advice.

Since March, prior to the first National Lockdown when we last asked for information about which parents or carers were critical workers, the government's definition of "critical workers" has changed. There also may be changes to parents' employment details. In terms of vulnerable children, there may also have been changes to children's circumstances which may mean they are now vulnerable or are no longer vulnerable. Please could you refer to the government definitions of vulnerable children and critical workers below and then complete the following google form for each of your children before 9am on Thursday 7th January 2021.

[Click here to complete: Google Form Survey to identify children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable pupils.](#)

IMPORTANT – We can only accept vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers on-site. The curriculum for remote learning for children not in school will be delivered through our website and will remain almost entirely the same as the curriculum taking place in school. The only difference will be in the adaptation of learning tasks to enable learning tasks to be possible in both the home and school setting. **We would also seek to minimise the number of children coming into the school building as the whole purpose of the action is to reduce the chances of the infection spreading. Therefore, we would ask that children of critical workers only attend school on-site if there was no adult at home or no alternative safe child care available.** Furthermore, we require evidence from an employer of parents' critical worker status if they wish their children to be on the school premises. This can be forwarded to us ahead of your child's return to school on week commencing Monday 11th January or within one week of the place being offered.

Once you have completed the form having provided all necessary information, and if your child/family meets the criteria, we will assume that you want your child to attend school on the days you have indicated. Your child/children will be added to the registers for attendance in school and you will receive confirmation by email detailing the arrangements for drop off and pick up times. Please identify the days that your child will be attending school to the best of your ability. We do of course appreciate that for those of you working on the frontline, shift patterns cannot necessarily be anticipated.

All of the staff at Walkley would like to take this opportunity to express our disappointment that all our pupils will not be able to learn, play and socialise together in school until it is deemed safe enough for them to do so. It is our passion to do our very best for their academic development and well-being of all pupils whether at home or at school. It has an absolute joy to work in school with all pupils returning since September and we will look forward to us all returning in future. We also fully sympathise with how concerning and disruptive the on-going pandemic has been for families.

DEFINITIONS:

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan, or who are a looked-after child.
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan.
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services.
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order.
 - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training').
 - those living in temporary accommodation or those who are young carers.
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example, due to a lack of devices or a quiet space to study).
 - care leavers or other children and young people at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health.

Definition of 'Critical Worker' - The sectors within which 'critical workers' have been identified are:

- Health and social care
 - This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline carers.
 - health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health.
 - 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 nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.
- Critical public services
 - This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering critical frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and 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 COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm's 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 critical 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 critical defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), 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
 - This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems 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 COVID-19 response, as well as critical 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 and waste disposal sectors.

The complete list of 'critical workers' can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintainingeducationalprovision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational>

Please do complete the google form for each of your children.

Yours Faithfully

Val Sian

Headteacher