



Oxenhope Church of England Primary

A member of the
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22.1.21

Dear parents and carers,

At the moment we are seeing a huge increase in parents wanting places for their children.

I am asking you, please, to review your home situation. We are in a national lockdown and schools are closed to only children of critical workers and vulnerable children. We are working with the Trust to help as many families as we can and I do understand the struggles you are under but I am also trying to ensure the safety of all the staff and the children who really need to access school. Information given is that once the virus is in the school it transmits through people very quickly and the Trust already have seen staff members who have been hospitalised due to Covid. I would hate to have to restrict access to families further to ensure health and safety protocols are met.

Please read the following information from the trust which we have sent out previously.

If you can reduce the numbers of days your children access then that would really help, likewise if you can use your support bubble network for child care then again this will relieve the pressure the school is under.

I will be reviewing everything which is in place currently before half term as new guidance and information is given from the government.

Please be sensible and safe.

If your circumstances change or you feel your child falls into the vulnerable category and is not accessing please ring us to talk through your options.

We will be able to offer daily wellbeing check-ins, personal conversations with teachers for individual children and access to other agencies if we feel this is appropriate.

Thank you for your understanding and let me repeat that we are here for you.

Mrs Jones

Oxenhope Church of England Primary School

Head teacher I: Mrs Alice Jones

Cross Lane, Oxenhope, Keighley, BD22 9LH

Email: office@oxenhope.bradford.sch.uk

Tel: (01535) 642271

Visit: www.oxenhopeprimary.org.uk





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11 January 2021

BDAT Position on Opening for Vulnerable and Critical Worker Children

Updated DFE guidance January 8th: critical workers should keep their children at home if they can. Please only use school places if you really need to & we will be here to help you out. This will help us to make sure those staff & students in school can be kept as safe as possible.

The National Lockdown announced by the Prime minister started on the 4 January, with a national direction to all English residents that: ***"You must stay at home. The single most important action we can all take is to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives. You should follow this guidance immediately. This is the law"***.

In the spirit of this guidance, we wish to remind you that all children, with the exception of vulnerable children, **should stay at home and access remote learning if it is safe to do so**. This will lower the number of households mixing within school and reduce transmission of the virus. It will help keep you, your child, the rest of your family and your teachers safe. This has to be all of our key priority.

Expectation of vulnerable children: children deemed vulnerable are expected and encouraged in to school. If a vulnerable child does not attend school, the school is required by the Government to mark your child as an unauthorised absence. If you are the parent of a vulnerable child and have concerns about sending your child to school, please contact school and we will happily talk through your concerns and help find a way forward that is right for your child. By keeping numbers low and by adhering to all our normal measures such as regular hand washing and hygiene and social distancing, school is a safe place for your child and we look forward to seeing them.

Expectation of children of critical workers: critical workers should keep their children at home if they can. Please only use school places if you really need to & we will be here to help you out.

You will have read that some schools across England are very full due to the number of children still attending. Obviously if we have more students in school, then the risk of virus transmission does increase. We therefore are asking any parent who is a critical worker to keep their child at home if they can and encourage them to join remote learning provision with their peers. We can accommodate children part or full time to meet your needs if you do still require a place in school.

Children in nurseries: whilst the Government has confirmed nursery provision can stay open for all children, as with critical worker provision, BDAT is keen to keep numbers as low as possible in line with the rest of school. Parents of nursery age children should therefore also aim to keep their children at home when they can and should only send them in to school where they have no other alternative. BDAT will be providing remote education activities for nursery age children in the same

way they will be providing remote learning for all other year groups in our schools.

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Thank you for your understanding on this matter. The Government has been clear that schools will be expected to operate remotely until at least February half term and we look forward to welcoming all children back in to school when we are allowed to do so.

Alice Jones

believe
and
achieve

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