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Thursday 7th January 2021

NATIONAL LOCKDOWN Update

URGENT INFORMATION REQUIRED FROM CHILDREN OF CRITICAL WORKERS

Dear Parent/Carer,

On Tuesday we implemented the new National Lockdown with a clear '**STAY AT HOME**' message and our schools moving to a blended model of in-school learning for only vulnerable/ critical worker children with Remote Learning for the majority of children.

We all know the difficulties that comes with this, however we must all play our part in following the rules, with the one overall aim of reducing the spread of this virus! As you know, in our school, two year groups are already affected with children and staff needing to self-isolate until January 18th. The risk of transmission with the new strain of this virus is considerably higher than the original strain and more children and young people are being infected than before.

I am therefore asking you all to consider if sending your child to school is your **ONLY** option as this will be putting them, yourself and wider family and our school staff at risk.

I totally appreciate and understand that some of you are key workers, working on the frontline, and this **IS** your only option. But, we have had a significant increase in requests for places, compared to the first school closure period, and have updated our risk assessment in line with best practice guidance to ensure only a reduced number of children and staff are on site to ensure a safe environment for all. In some situations, we are already breaching this guidance.

Therefore, if you have a place and did not send your child during the last lockdown, in March, we will be asking for evidence in the form of a letter from **both parents' employers** notifying us of your employment status and the reason why you cannot work from home. Generic letters will not be accepted – the letter should be on headed paper and must include your name. Where parents can work from home the safest place for your child is at home with you. Those families who are accessing provision will still have their place **for the moment**, but we ask that this information is emailed in by **next Tuesday at 4pm** so we can fully review to ensure we have the right children in our school in the fairest way possible. Please email this information to admin2121@stockingfordacademy.org **PLEASE DO NOT USE THE COVID EMAIL ADDRESS FOR THIS COMMUNICATION.**

The less children we have in school, the safer everyone will be and the better our Remote Learning offer will be for the majority. We will be able to offer a lot more support to you at home this time around and it is exactly the same as being delivered in school. Please rest assured that we are all concerned about your child's education and their mental health and it is our top priority.

May I thank you for your support and understanding during another very difficult and challenging situation for everyone, with such short notice. We all need to do our bit to keep safe, protect the NHS and save lives.

Mrs G Bowser
Headteacher