

DRIFFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL - Monday 11th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Urgent:Places for children in school

I know I only sent a letter out on Friday but I am **extremely concerned** about the number of children we have coming to school during this crucial lockdown period, and the growing number of requests we have coming in on a daily basis.

The purpose of the measures announced by the Prime Minister on Monday is to limit pupil's attendance in school to reduce the number of contacts people have and therefore reduce the intense pressure on the NHS.

When we first asked for parents to contact us regarding critical worker status we placed a deadline of 12 noon on Tuesday 5th January. Since then we have had a further 30+ requests. This is way beyond anything we had imagined.

As a result of the demand for school places and the need to work together as a town, a county, and a nation, to drive down the transmission of this virus we are now in a position where we need to review the numbers of pupils for whom we are able to offer a face-to-face school place.

The original guidance said that if there was one critical worker in a family then their children could attend school but now this is no longer the case (apart from in a single parent family situation). Following communication from the local authority on Friday, this is now the order of priority for attending school:

- Vulnerable - children with an EHCP or a designated social worker
- Vulnerable - other, as decided by the school
- Families with two critical worker parents (or one in a single parent family situation)
- Families with one critical worker parent

IMPORTANT CHANGE

Based broadly on the numbers of children who attended school during the first lockdown (and adding a few extras), I stated that we wanted children of critical workers to attend school all week rather than coming in for different days or part days. I'm afraid that this is now going to have to change so that we can reduce numbers on a daily basis and make space for those who genuinely need a place.

So, for those of you whose children are already attending school, if you only need a place for a specific number of days each week, please email the school office or ring school to state what those days are.

Contact details: driffield.juniors@eastriding.gov.uk Tel: 01377 253371

We can then consider the requests we have received most recently and, where possible, allocate places to those who meet the criteria.

PLEASE CONTACT US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND BY 12 NOON TOMORROW AT THE LATEST IF YOU ARE ABLE TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF TIME YOUR CHILD COMES IN TO SCHOOL OR IF YOU ARE ABLE TO KEEP HIM/HER AT HOME. Thank you.

Please note: If your child is currently not attending school at all but you wish to request a place, until we have dealt with the above, **we cannot offer any more places at present**. However you can send your details to the email address above and we will get back to you later in the week.

Please bear with us during these difficult and unprecedented times. We fully understand how challenging it is for you and hope we can all work together for the greater cause.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours truly,

Linda Laird

Mrs L J Laird - Headteacher