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31/12/20

Dear Parents,

Following my communication last night, I have now received confirmation from the Local Authority to confirm in parts of Essex, the Contingency Framework has been implemented. This means that: 'DfE are advising at this moment that only vulnerable children and children of critical workers should be allowed to attend'

The Contingency Framework Implementation guidance applies to all districts, cities and boroughs that were placed in Tier 4 on the 19th December 2020; namely:

- Brentwood
- Epping Forest
- Castle Point
- Basildon
- Rochford
- Harlow
- Chelmsford
- Braintree
- Maldon

Therefore for all schools in the districts and boroughs above, only Critical Worker children and vulnerable children should attend. High quality remote education will be made available to all other pupils.

The Contingency Framework Implementation Guidance will be reviewed by the 18th January 2021.

As our school is in Wickford, this falls into the Basildon District, so therefore our school will only be open to Critical Worker children and vulnerable children until further notice.

Critical Worker Children

The list of Critical Worker children has changed since the last lockdown, even if your child/ren attended school during the lockdown, they may no longer be eligible for a space. Please follow the link to see if your child/children are eligible to be in school:

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

Should you need to take up a critical worker child space, this will be **for the full school week** (every day), to lower risks, we will not be allowing part time places. Please email the school office at admin@abacus.essex.sch.uk by midday on Sunday 3/1/21, attaching a letter from your employer to confirm your role falls into the Critical Worker category.

Schools have been closed to all children for the safety of all, therefore if you have alternative childcare provision and do not need to send your child to school, please consider this before requesting a place.

Our school office will open on Monday and they will be available to answer any questions and will respond to emails at that time.

Vulnerable children

We will contact relevant families on Monday to talk through whether you would like to take up the space, should your child fall in to this category.

Free School Meals

We will continue to offer a hot, meal service for all children in receipt of Free School Meals, which can be collected from school. We have not been informed that vouchers will be offered during this period- if this changes, we will let you know.
There will be more information regarding this on Monday.

Remote Learning

We are currently finalising our Remote Learning Plans. I will update you on Monday 4/1/21 with details of plans and where to access them, once I have had an opportunity to talk with our teaching team.

I will endeavour to offer class Zoom sessions for all parents to talk through current changes and restrictions on Tuesday 5/1/21, I will inform you of times in my communication on Monday 4/1/21.

Flu Vaccinations

Unfortunately the planned session for children who were not able to have their flu vaccinations in the last week of term will not be able to go ahead, we have contacted the immunisation team and they are looking in to how/when they might be able to offer these. We will update you when we have any further information to share.

I do hope that you have all had a restful Christmas and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I appreciate that the New Year has already started unexpectedly, but I promise that we will continue to do our very best for our whole school community.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Blakeley

