



S I N G L E T O N



CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Church Road, Singleton, Poulton-le-Fylde FY6 8LN

Telephone 01253 882226 Email: head@singleton.lancs.sch.uk

Headteacher:
Mrs. A Clayton

12/01/21

Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you on the current situation in school. I know that these are very challenging times and we all need to now, more than ever support each other. As you are all aware the on the 8th January we entered a second lock down period and schools were closed in principle except to Critical Worker and vulnerable children. The current situation in our area is critical, with rising transmission rates and our local hospitals overwhelmed.

As stated in previous correspondence we have been inundated with requests for Critical Worker places. Numbers have continued to increase and we now have 56% of our children seemingly now needing a place, which equates to more children coming into school than are staying at home to access remote learning. This is an increase of 30% since we last had to lock down and offered Critical Worker provision.

The idea of the current lockdown is to try to curb the rapid spread of coronavirus and prevent the health services becoming overwhelmed and to keep our school family safe. We know that the new coronavirus variant is 50 – 70% more transmissible than the previous strain. The difficult decision to close schools was based on the need to slow down the spread of the virus, we know that if we only had small numbers of pupils and staff attending our school in the coming weeks and months the risk of transmission would be much reduced.

Having 56% of our school population in the building has significant implications for our school family. On Friday the DfE revised its guidance slightly:-

Whilst parents who are critical / key workers can ask for a place at school, even if this is one parent out of two, **the DfE has asked parents, even those who fall into the wider definition of critical/ key workers, to keep their children home if they can.**

Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, Lancashire Director of Public Health has advised us throughout the pandemic that we should reduce any contact with others wherever possible and the government advice is clear. Stay at Home. Whilst much work has gone into making schools Covid safe, so many parents and carers now fall into the category of critical / key workers that schools simply cannot accommodate all these children and implement effective socially distancing. This slight change in messaging from the DfE to parents will therefore help to keep everyone safe if parents act upon the advice.

Lancashire County Council area advising that parents (including those classed as Critical Worker), except those of the children who are vulnerable, should only send children to schools where it is not possible to keep them at home.

We therefore ask all parents that are classed as Critical Workers to evaluate their situation against the new guidance. If you are able to keep your children at home then please do so. We know these are extremely challenging times and this is not easy for any of us. The majority of parents of children that are currently having to access remote learning are also working parents and having to juggle working from home with looking after their children. It is not easy, it is not what any of us would choose but we are in this together and as a school community we really do need to support each other and be mindful of the bigger picture and how critical things are at the moment.

If you no longer require a Critical Worker place please could you let Rachel Reeves in the School Office know as soon as possible.

We appreciate your ongoing support at this very difficult time

Kind regards,

The Senior Management Team