



# Cookridge Primary School

Tinshill Drive, Leeds, LS16 7DH

Headteacher, Mrs L Hunter

Tel. 0113 3862500 Email: [info@cookridge.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:info@cookridge.leeds.sch.uk)

<http://cookridgeprimaryschool.co.uk>

Dear Parents / carers,

In an effort to keep you up-to-date with current planning and our rationale for its implementation, we have formulated this summary.

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 8:00pm, we all watched the Prime Minister's statement saying schools would close to all pupils, except children whose parents are critical workers or children who are deemed vulnerable. To anyone hearing that it would appear that schools were closed. In fact, we currently have over 80 children in school under the critical workers and vulnerable group status which is approximately 30% of our school. It is very clear that with home learning and face-to-face teaching, we are very much open.

We have been given some guidance from the DfE with regards to who constitutes a critical worker. If we take the broad statements of this guidance, coupled with those parents who have applied for critical worker status, we would have to provide face-to-face educational provision in school for anything upwards of 150 children, nearly 50% of our school. This is in addition to providing online learning for all our pupils at home. As I am sure you understand, running this dual system of educating pupils in school and providing remote learning to children at home is challenging and places additional logistical issues on staffing.

The more we can minimise the number of people in the school building the lower the risk of transmission for everyone in our Community. We are already in a position where we have had a positive case in school and have had to close a bubble. So, in order to minimise the risk of transmission whilst also continuing to provide face-to-face provision in school where it is absolutely essential, I am asking you to reconsider whether you need a critical worker place in school particularly based on the updated guidance from the DfE which states 'parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can'. Friday's snow day highlighted that many parents were working from home and/or looking after younger siblings and it may be these parents in particular who could consider whether a face-to-face place for their child is critical. Please confirm to the school office by 13-1-2021 whether it is essential that you have a place in school for your child.

## Current situation:

- We are open and teaching face-to-face (Using our risk assessment, government guidance, Public Health England advice in order to minimise risk) to 80 children (approximately 30% of our school populous) and this is continuing to rise.
- Our criteria currently for face-to-face learning in school:
  - Critical worker children have been offered a place if both parents are critical workers as per the DfE guidance.
  - Vulnerable children have been identified and contacted by school and are receiving face-to-face learning.
  - All other children are receiving home learning.
- We are providing FSM food packages to parents whose children aren't currently attending school but who would normally receive FSM.

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all children, staff and visitors. In order to sustain high levels of safeguarding, visitors and volunteers are expected to share this commitment.





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- We are providing hot meals to those children currently attending school.
- We are providing laptops to those parents who have requested them.

As a Headteacher with 23 years of experience working with children, it is always hard when we know children can't attend school. I also know the strain of these lockdowns on families, jobs, finances and well-being. However, as a Headteacher my number one priority is the safeguarding of all stakeholders of Cookridge Primary school.

Thank you for your continued support

Kind regards

Lynne Hunter

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