



ROBERT MELLORS PRIMARY ACADEMY

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Head Teacher: Mrs E Essex
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Tuesday 2nd February 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Re: School places for children of Critical Workers: Action required.

Since the closure of schools on 5th January to most children, we have seen a gradual increase in the number of parents requesting places for their children due to their critical worker status.

Limiting attendance at schools and colleges helps to support the reduction in the overall number of social contacts in our communities, which is a vital intervention in the context of current very high transmission rates. In these circumstances, the safest place for your child is at home.

Current national information shows that aggregate school attendance is much lower than full attendance. National attendance is around 5% in secondary schools and 20% in primary schools at present. This will support the reduction in the transmission of the virus.

This lockdown, requests for places at RMPA has been much higher, to the extent that our numbers now **exceed** the national aggregate percentage. **Our attendance currently stands at 34%.**

This is concerning to us and we are having to work hard to reduce contact in school in order to keep our staff and children (and your families) safe.

Please help us by keeping your children at home when you can and only taking up a school place for your child if you have no alternative.

The government haven't given guidance on upper limits for groups of children. However, when previous lockdown restrictions were reduced from 1st June 2020, an upper limit of 15 was placed on bubbles. This was when infection rates, hospital admissions and daily deaths were significantly lower than they are currently. Moreover, the new strains of the virus had not manifested.

Most of our bubbles are now made up of between 13 and 16 children.

When we first entered this lockdown period, we stipulated that any places for children would be full time. Given the large proportion of children that we have requiring places, I am now reviewing this and we are asking that children only attend on days which there is no other alternative e.g. a parent at home.

We are also aware that there are children in school who have only one parent at home who is a critical worker. We ask that where possible, if there is another adult at home, that your children do not take a place.

Please re-apply for a place for your child.

We are asking that you review your needs for a place for your child at school and reapply for a place for them. This revision will be in effect from 23rd February following the half term holiday and the scheduled INSET day on 22nd February.

If your work is part time, then we ask that your child only attends on the days when you must work.



**All critical worker parents should complete this [form](http://bitly.ws/bz8i) by Monday 8th February
(<http://bitly.ws/bz8i>)**

Childcare bubbles – useful information

You have to meet certain eligibility rules to form a support or childcare bubble. This means not everyone will be able to form a bubble.

If you live in a household with anyone aged under 14, you can form a childcare bubble. This allows friends or family from one other household to provide informal childcare.

You must not meet socially with your childcare bubble, and must avoid seeing members of your childcare and support bubbles at the same time.

There is separate guidance for support bubbles and childcare bubbles.

This information might be of use to you as you review your needs for a place for your child.

Half term holiday

School will be closed for the half term holiday. We break up on Friday 12th February. Children return to school on Tuesday 23rd February after the scheduled INSET day on Monday 22nd.

Lime Trees (our wraparound care provider) will be running a holiday club in school for the duration of the half term week and on Monday 22nd. This provision will be limited to children of critical workers.

If you wish to book a place for your child at Lime Trees holiday club, please contact their main office on; 0115 9313562 or via email: hello@thelimetrees.co.uk

As always, if there is anything that you wish to discuss with me or any other member of staff, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Best wishes

Mrs Essex

