

Sheffield Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH
www.sheffield.gov.uk



Monday 18th January 2021

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s)

Thank you for all that you are doing during this lockdown period to keep you, your children and families as safe as possible. As you are all aware, we have entered a third lockdown and the single most important action we can all take is to stay at home. Government policy has significantly shifted and schools have been asked to remain open only for critical workers and vulnerable children. All of our schools are working extremely hard to deliver teaching and learning both to pupils at home and those attending on site and to keep children and adults who are on site as safe as possible.

It is important that we keep the number of people in schools as low as possible Having fewer people in schools is about reducing the overall number of contacts everyone has in the community, which is important to help reduce the pressure on the NHS. Hospital admissions are rising in Sheffield so it remains vital that we do all we can to keep numbers in school as low as possible.

During this lockdown, children should stay at home where possible. The government guidance during lockdown says that the children parents and carers who are **critical workers** may be eligible for a school place but this doesn't mean that all places should be taken up and it doesn't mean that there is an entitlement – the guidance says that critical worker parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can. **Please only use the offer of a school place when it is crucial for you to undertake your critical role.** If you can make an alternative arrangement, we ask you to consider this. Your child's school will speak to parents and carers to identify who needs to go to school and also may ask for evidence that your work is critical to the COVID-19 response.

We know that things are difficult at the moment and recognise the challenges you are facing supporting your child's learning and education at home. Thank you for all that you are doing.

Thank you for helping us keep numbers low in school and for following the lockdown restrictions. This will help reduce transmission of COVID-19 and allow us all to get back to enjoying more activities and time with our friends and families soon.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Abtisam Mohamed
Labour Councillor for the Firth Park Ward
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

John Macilwraith
Executive Director
People Services Portfolio