



Telford Infant School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

UPDATE – REMOTE LEARNING AND KEY WORKERS

Thank you again for your patience whilst we have been busy putting systems in place – at very short notice to us all.

REMOTE LEARNING

We have received very positive feedback about this week's remote learning provision and we are now very much looking forward to starting live lessons next week in KS1 for children not attending school.

We are aware, however, that the amount of remote learning being provided may seem overwhelming to some parents. The government's expectations as outlined in the guidance provided to schools far outweigh what was expected of schools and families previously. The Department for Education guidance states that *'The amount of remote education provided should be, as a minimum: Key Stage 1: 3 hours a day on average across the cohort, with less for younger children.'* and teachers are doing their very best to gauge this across all year groups. Guidance and messages to you all will continue to be uploaded onto Tapestry and you can leave messages for your child's year group Remote Learning Team on this platform. Please be aware that all teachers are fully deployed every school day providing remote learning or live teaching so it will be a member of the Remote Learning Team that responds, which may not be your child's class teacher.

Please remember that even though many of our children are not learning onsite we are here to support and guide them – and you, their home teachers, too!

KEYWORKERS

A new (61 page) document providing guidance for schools related to restricting school attendance during the national lockdown was published by the Department for Education late yesterday. This morning I attended a virtual meeting for Warwickshire Headteachers led by the Local Authority providing clarification and further guidance.

Currently we have a significantly higher proportion of keyworker children in school than we did during the first lockdown in Spring 2020, as is the case across all schools nationally. This is mainly due to the critical worker list being extended in the Autumn and again in early January.

Our keyworker numbers have continued to grow and we have had to open further teaching groups cater for this. Keyworker children are now being taught in two groups in each year with up to 22 children in each teaching group. Year groups are currently catering for between 33 to 44 children. All staff are either teaching keyworker classes, teaching live lessons or providing remote learning support so these groups may continue to grow as there is no limit as to the size of keyworker bubbles, which was previously 15. It is important that you are aware of the sizes of bubbles as although we continue to strictly adhere to our Risk Assessment and have so far been extremely fortunate not to have closed to any year group bubbles no one can guarantee that the virus is not brought into school and that we won't have positive cases of COVID-19.

The guidance states that schools cannot cap numbers of keyworker children attending as the government is '*reducing overall social contact across areas and the country rather than individually by each institution*'. However, it also states that '*parents and carers that are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can*'.

On this basis many schools are asking those parents who are eligible for a key worker space the following questions in order to help reduce the spread of infection by keeping their child at home where it is safest:

Is your key worker role is critical to the COVID-19 response?

Is your key worker role critical to the EU transition response?

Do you absolutely require a space or can you keep your child safely at home?

While the guidance states that 'only one parent in a family needs to be a key worker to be eligible for a space in school', if you are a family where only one of you is a key worker and the other is not do you need to send your child into school?

Telford Infant School is open, and ready to welcome and teach, children of keyworkers who need a place. However, if you have a keyworker place allocated or are considering asking for a place please can you consider the questions above. If you no longer require a place please contact the school office so that remote learning arrangements can be set up for your child.

At present we are offering fulltime attendance for keyworker children - based on children's experiences from the previous lockdown many of them found it very difficult to settle when attending part time with sometimes different children every day and their learning was not consistent. However, the school may have to change to a system of keyworker (not vulnerable) children attending only when absolutely necessary to enable their key worker parent to do their essential job with remote learning throughout the rest of the week.

I look forward to the day that school can open in the way we did pre-COVID times but in the meantime thank you to all of you for your support in working with us to ensure that all children get the very best teaching and learning they possibly can during this new lockdown.
I wish you all a happy and safe weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Siân Oustayiannis
Headteacher

