



Royal Cross Primary School

Lancashire's school for deaf children

Dear Parents & Carers,

Schools update ...

I would like to thank all parents / carers who have contacted school to request a school place from Monday.

We have now conducted thorough risk assessments to address all current Government guidelines in order to create the safest environment we can for staff and children against the emerging new Covid strain.

We have had a high demand for places which we will do our very best to accommodate in some way. We currently don't have our usual full staff capacity which will affect how we are able to safely staff our class groups and maintain COVID-19 safety measures.

This means we have had to look again at the criteria for school places. Previously all children who have an EHCP were classed as 'vulnerable', this has now had to adapt to reflect safe levels of supervision within school. As a school we have agreed that our school criteria for 'vulnerable' are those children with social workers and those on Free School Meals. We have put together a priority list for school places and will allocate places by working our way down this list until we have reached a 'safe' capacity for staffing.

As a result, from Monday 11th only pupils listed below will be offered access to onsite education.

- First priority will be given to:-
 - Children with a social worker.
 - Children where **both** parents are key / critical workers or children with single parents who are key/critical workers. NHS workers take priority.
 - Children where only 1 of 2 parents is a key/critical care worker. NHS workers take priority.
 - Children of families in receipt of Free School Meals.

Parents who believe they are key / critical workers will need to provide letters or emails from their employers verifying why they are classed as a critical worker. Please send this into school as soon as possible.

What happens next?

On Thursday afternoon we will contact those parents / carers directly who have requested places to confirm if onsite learning is being offered.

- *Only children who themselves and their household are symptom free or have completed the required isolation period can attend.*
- *Clinically extremely vulnerable children who have been advised to shield **cannot** attend.*

Headteacher Bev Hennefer Elswick Road Ashton Preston Lancashire PR21NT

T 01772 729705

E head@royalcross.lancs.sch.uk

W www.royalcross.lancs.sch.uk





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- I would encourage all parents of children with underlying medical conditions to seek advice from their GP before requesting a school place.

What if my child is not attending onsite education?

All other pupils will receive remote education and will be contacted by their child's class teacher to discuss and agree a home learning package.

If your child is learning from home, please could you contact your Passenger Assistant and inform them that they will not be accessing school until further notice.

Parents of children who are not receiving onsite learning and think their child should as they are key / critical workers or meet the vulnerable criteria please get in touch with the school office.

I understand how confusing and upsetting this all is, but the situation is constantly changing, and new challenges are appearing daily. At the heart of all our decision making is the need to keep children and staff safe.

Thank you so much for your patience and understanding.

Kindest regards,

Bev Hennefer
Headteacher
06/01/2021

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