



G A Y T O N P R I M A R Y S C H O O L
G A Y T O N R O A D • H E S W A L L • W I R R A L • C H 6 0 8 P Z

24th March 2020

Dear Parents,

This is a really difficult letter for me to write to you but having watched and listened to the new measures announced last night, I wanted to urge you to consider everything available to you in keeping your child at home. Our country is in lock-down and as a result of this, these things now apply:

- Requiring people to stay at home, except for very limited purposes
- Closing non-essential shops and community spaces
- Stopping all gatherings of more than two people in public.

It's a difficult letter because I know it will cause some families to feel that I am being unsupportive and unwilling to care for your children, but I feel strongly that I am writing this email because I care so much for your children, our families and staff.

I completely understand that there are some families who have both parents as critical workers, working on the same day, who have no alternatives but to use us, as all other avenues are unavailable to them. We will continue to be available for you, as long as we are allowed or can be.

However, where **one** parent is a critical worker, I would urge you to consider all options of how to keep your child or children at home, no matter how much of an impact it would have on your home or work situation. If one parent, is able to work at home during this period then your children should be remaining with you at home, as they are at less risk and consequently your family is also at less risk. This would significantly reduce the amount of children in school and would support us in maintaining the service for the families that need it most.

I am sincerely sorry for emailing this to you and asking you to make such a difficult decision but I am concerned about the numbers of children accessing our childcare facility currently. After listening to the Prime Minister last night, I am concerned about the contact we continue to have with each other and how this is in complete contradiction to the government measures.

The Prime Minister has ruled that people should not gather in groups of more than 2, yet in school, we could sometimes have over 35 children in school on one day. We have educated the children in social distancing whereby they can't go within 2 metres of each other but this is still very challenging to manage and younger children, in particular, just do not stick to these guidelines. This means that I am putting my staff and other pupils at risk of spreading the infection.

If you feel that your family do definitely qualify for the **two critical workers** element, please can you email the school office with contact details for your employer. We can then confirm with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service due to the COVID-19 response. We will also be able to clarify, whether arrangements can be made for you to work at home as the country is now in lockdown, therefore only critical workers who are directly responding to the COVID-19 measures should still be reporting to work.

Headteacher: Mrs McAleny

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If you feel, as a result of this letter, that you no longer require our services please can you email the school office on schooloffice@gayton.wirral.sch.uk

If our numbers still remain high, the governors may look at putting in place a priority system for critical workers so that we can ensure that frontline staff who are directly responding to the coronavirus pandemic are able to continue to work.

I apologise for this direct letter, but as Headteacher of the school, I have a duty to protect my staff and pupils and need to ensure that we are providing the childcare service for the families who absolutely require it during these completely unprecedented times.

Thank you for your understanding,

Kind regards,

Mrs McAleny

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