



15th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

The government has indicated that children with at least one parent/carer who is a critical worker can continue to attend school if required **but parents/carers should keep their children at home if they can.**

We are asking if you could carefully consider if you would be able to keep your child safely at home if you are a key worker.

There is currently a high demand for places in school which is putting a great deal of pressure on staff who are also engaged in delivering remote learning for pupils at home.

While most school staff are well and able to work, they are at capacity and there will be resourcing issues if anyone becomes ill or has to self-isolate. **May I also take the opportunity to remind you that children must stay at home if they are awaiting the result of a COVID-19 test, or someone in the household is positive or showing symptoms, and must continue to do so if they test positive.**

The new variant of coronavirus is highly contagious and while every effort is made to keep school COVID-secure, the more people who stay at home, the better the chance of bringing down infection rates in Reading.

We appreciate it is a very difficult time for everyone, and some parents who are key workers will have no choice but to send their children to school. But I would urge you to keep your child at home if you can.

This approach has been discussed with and endorsed by Reading's Director of Children's Services and Director of Education at Brighter Futures for Children.

Let us assure you, we are doing all we can for our pupils in school and at home and are adapting to a rapidly changing situation. We know what a concerning and unsettling time it is for children and for parents and we will continue to be here to help in any way we can.

We appreciate your co-operation in these challenging times.

Warmest regards,

Louise Burridge