

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

### **Unmanageably high numbers in school**

Further to our recent letters and messages, I am writing to explain the difficulty we are facing in school. This problem is not limited only to Kingsway Primary; it is felt by others too.

The number of children attending has increased steadily over the past 2 weeks. Today, we registered 121 children in total which is putting significant strain on school bubbles. They are becoming too large and are putting children, staff and the community at increased risk of infection.

### **Kingsway's Current Approach**

We are currently able to provide high quality remote learning provision, which is increasingly refined and improving. Our staff training programme this term is focusing solely on the development of remote learning for all children; computers have arrived and are ready to be sent out to those who need them; our pastoral team is working effectively to support all families; the SENCo is supporting staff to ensure all children with EHCPs receive the support they need.

Our ability to provide this level of support is dependent upon keeping numbers in school at a lower number. If this does not happen, staff will be required to reduce the quality of their remote provision to support bubbles in class.

### **We care**

We want you to know that we truly care about both you and your child's welfare and that key workers depend upon us to be able to work effectively. Our intention is to support that fully whilst maintaining as low numbers as possible in the school.

### **The way forwards**

We need to be assured that key worker parents are only accessing school provision that is absolutely vital. Parents will therefore be required to evidence to the school office that they need that day of cover and that there is no-one at home to support their child effectively. The guidance is simple: **you must stay at home if you can.**

In response, we will only accept children in to the school where there is absolutely no alternative to staying at home. Places will therefore be prioritised for children where:

- 1) Both parents are critical workers
- 2) Single parents who are critical workers
- 3) One parent qualifies as a critical worker and the other parent is not at home, therefore unable to look after their child

Parents will need to evidence that they are critical workers and their shift pattern by showing a named, dated letter from their employer.

I thank you in advance for your support and trust you understand the need for a robust and searching response to the need for key worker places.

Children who are deemed vulnerable form a much smaller percentage of our attendance and are not affected.

With kind regards and best wishes



Mr Pajak

Headteacher



**Kindness Perseverance Success**

