

Wednesday 6th January

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you so much for your patience as we try and deal with the issues placed upon us. It has been a mammoth task ensuring we are ready for tomorrow, particularly for the provision of Critical Worker families. Office staff have been in contact today with families that have been offered places; if you have not heard then unfortunately you have not been allocated a place.

As stated yesterday we had unprecedented applications and we had to prioritise families where both parents are key workers. We are working under very strict guidance of health and safety during a global pandemic and we cannot safely facilitate all requests. To have over 120 children on site is not feasible, safe or manageable. In addition we would have to sacrifice home-learning to teach the children in school. We could not do both.

Some of you will be disappointed and all I can do is apologise, however health and safety has to come first. We are not here to stop people working however we are also not here to provide child care. We have to consider the health of all concerned. To put it into perspective my wife and I are teachers, classed as critical workers but we cannot gain a place for our children at their school. They have reached capacity. I share your frustrations; I have been at work today with my daughter. This is not ideal for either of us however sacrifices need to be made. I assure you I would much rather be fully open.

Tomorrow a full timetable of learning will be live from 8.55am on Google Classroom. This is a platform we have been using for homework since September and while individual classes have been isolating. Feedback from parents during this time has been very positive. We are confident it will work and will be successful however there will inevitably be teething issues. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have issues.

I am literally heartbroken we are here again and devastated I have had to have difficult conversations with families around provision. It is not what we are about but we have been forced into this position. I am particularly upset for all our children. While some may be glad to have no school I know the majority will miss the structure, routine and friendships. We will do all we can to ensure they stay motivated and engaged and we are very much here for them and you. If we can help, please get in touch – we are always here.

God Bless

Mark Mountcastle