



Marshside

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

What a start to the term we have all experienced. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience and support during this most difficult time. Since the directive for schools to close last Monday we have all had to come to terms with so much. I hope you; your children and your wider family are settling to the prospect of yet another 'new normal' and are keeping well and staying safe.

In school I have been working since last week to consult with staff, governors, the Local Authority and other agencies. This work has resulted in changes to the partial opening plans for this period of time. As part of this process I have had to revisit all previous Covid-19 risk assessments and school operating procedures.

In order to assist explanations from now on I will use the phrase 'Open School' to refer to our onsite provision for Vulnerable children and the children of 'Critical Workers'. I will refer to the act of children working remotely off-site as 'Home School'.

Open School

The current Government guidance clearly states that you should '**Stay Home**' unless you need to carry out 'essential' duties. This is to lessen any opportunities for transmission to hopefully bring the virus under control. Schools are naturally an area where transmission rates increase because it is a hub for children and adults to come together.

From next week the criteria for sending children to school will change in in order to keep school a safe place. School will continue to remain open to Vulnerable children and the children of Critical Workers with one bubble open for each year group. They will be taught by their usual teaching teams. Regarding the attendance of the children of 'Critical Workers', in an update to DfE guidance last Thursday the following statement was published:

'Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can'.

Given this change, if you are a Critical Worker and **need** your child to attend to carry out your role, your child should only take up a place on the days you are working. There is not an entitlement to a full time place regardless of working pattern. In order to assist our planning could parents that this affects please email your requirements for this week to the school email admin@marshside.sefton.school. I ask that if you have already informed us of this that you review it and see if there are any adjustments that you can make to reduce the provision you need. You will not automatically qualify for a place due to the new risk assessment in place.

Within the Risk Assessment there is a 1 metre distance between each child in class (Y1-6) and a 2m distance from the teacher to ensure safer working conditions. With this control measure in place

that places a capacity on each classroom, these range from 10-15 pupils depending on the size of classroom your child is in. I now have bubbles that have reached that capacity and I can no longer meet the need of Vulnerable and Critical Worker families. Moving forward, for families who require places for children I need to apply the following criteria for entry which has been agreed by Governors.

1. Vulnerable pupils - identified by headteacher and staff
2. Pupils where all parents in the household are critical workers.
3. Pupils where one parent is a critical worker in the NHS, Education or other Social Care professions.
4. Pupils where one parent is a critical worker as identified on the DfE Critical Worker list but not in the categories identified in Criteria 3

'Critical Workers' are listed in the government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

As always, if you have any questions / queries or require any support please contact us via the school email admin@marshside.sefton.school or directly to me via ClassDojo.

I know this isn't ideal and it's difficult; but I need to ensure the safety of everyone, at home and school.

Please take care and stay safe,

Mrs. Natasha Sandland
Headteacher