

15/01/2021

Dear Parents and carers

Many thanks for your hard work and dedication to remote learning. We have been monitoring Seesaw and engagement across school is high. Children are producing quality work at home and are being well supported. There are a small number who are not completing all the work set. Please make sure that you support your child to do it all every day and to put their work on Seesaw so staff can respond and give feedback. I know from the calls home that many of you are delighted with the support that staff have given and the quality of the teaching and learning. Please continue to communicate with school and to continue the excellent work you are doing at home.

We have had further guidance from the local authority regarding critical worker places and the amount of children we can have in school. As part of our commitment to keeping you informed I have shared it with you. They have stated that schools should admit critical workers only if space allows after the allocation of places to the most vulnerable. The guidance reads:

*Following allocation of places to vulnerable children, schools are advised to allocate places to critical workers. **Where possible, children of critical workers should still learn remotely.** Where **all** parents in the household are key workers, the following roles should be prioritised. Please note these are not in any priority order. Any school needing to prioritise within this group should contact Public Health for further support:*

- *Frontline health professionals such as hospital doctors and nurses, GPs*
- *Personnel involved in the vaccination programme, including administrative staff*
- *Emergency services*
- *Social care staff such as those in care homes, providing home care and social workers involved in safeguarding adults and children*
- *Early years and education staff*

*We recognise that many parents are under considerable pressure to work, sometimes where employers are insisting they physically attend work as critical workers where in fact their role does not meet the criteria. This is an enforcement issue so please do let Public Health know so that it can be followed up.*

***The default position is that everyone possible should remain at home.***

We trust that our parents and carers use us appropriately when all other avenues have been explored. If you do have a change in circumstance and can keep your child at home then please contact us so we can amend our register.

The end of the week has also seen snow! We are looking forward to next week when we can have a 'normal' week with no changes thrown at us at the last minute. Maybe that is too much to hope for!

I would just like to end by saying a huge thank you to all in our West Vale family. Staff, children and parents have once again worked together and supported each other to provide the very best for our children. I really enjoyed seeing so many of our children sharing each other's success on the celebration assemblies. It is this collaboration that makes West Vale a truly special place.

Mrs Gardiner

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