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14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

#### Key Worker Provision

You will all be aware from information shared in the media that an increasing number of parents qualify as Key Workers during this lockdown. As a result of this we have a large proportion of children in school at a time where for the safety of our community, children and staff we should be trying to reduce close contacts as much as possible.

Further additional guidance was issued at the end of last week by the Department for Education, this guidance can be found at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/950510/School\\_national\\_restrictions\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/950510/School_national_restrictions_guidance.pdf)

The guidance now states that while schools should seek to accommodate children of key workers on-site, "*Parents and carers who are key workers **should keep their children at home if they can.***"

The Government's position remains that schools are safe but that virus transmission chains are facilitated by those who attend them (as pupils, staff and parents) and that this fuels transmission rates within the wider community.

We are therefore reiterating these messages and requesting that parents only use this provision if absolutely necessary and only access the provision at all if their work is **CRITICAL** to the COVID-19 response. An example of this is; if you do not work full time, and could keep your child at home on your day off, or are working from home and are able to have your child at home. If you are able to keep your children at home either full time or on specific days, please email the school office [office.3144@tackley.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3144@tackley.oxon.sch.uk) and inform them by 12:00 on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

We are asking that if you currently qualify for a Key Worker place, please only send your children in when you need this provision. By reducing numbers in school we are reducing the possibility of transmission of the virus and the likelihood of having to close bubbles due to positive cases.

We appreciate that for many of you that this is a very difficult message. However, we would ask you to bear in mind the following:

- Places in school for critical worker children are finite and we would ask that you only take up a place if absolutely necessary. As a community, we must ensure that there is space for children of our healthcare workers and other vital roles that are actively helping us fight the pandemic;
- If we refuse to offer your child a place, please understand that we are balancing difficult priorities, including our own staff sickness and providing quality remote learning (in line with additional Government directives). Should this situation change we will, of course, review an application. Please note that children attending Key Worker provision are receiving the same remote learning resources as all other children.

We hope that you are all continuing to be safe and well under the very trying conditions that we all face and look forward to a time when virus transmission rates and a successful vaccination programme once again allow the full re-opening of schools.

Kind regards

Mrs L Murrey  
Headteacher

M Mead  
Chair of Governors



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Oxford Diocesan  
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