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Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

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Dear Parents

During the first lockdown, our Clutton community was incredibly supportive of school and I was so proud of how well each and every family engaged in home learning. This week I have been inundated with messages of support and thanks for all we have done so quickly to support children and families to adjust.

These are incredibly challenging times for us all and I am heartened to know we have your full support again. As explained in previous correspondence, we have had an unprecedented number of parents at Clutton requesting a key worker place for their child during this lockdown. We have not been able to safely accommodate all these requests, and more are coming in, and so I am appealing for you to consider if you have a safe option to keep your child at home.

We must and should continue to offer a safe space at school for those children where there is simply no other option. The safest place for all children to be is at home at this time. Mixing with other children will heighten the risk of infection and should be avoided unless there are no other safe options available. Yesterday, Matt Hancock ruled out cancelling childcare bubbles, and so I thought it would be helpful to re-share this option. This may be useful to consider, especially if the government tightens restrictions around key workers, to become critical workers only.

Childcare bubbles rules:

- If you live in a household with anyone aged under 14, you can form a childcare bubble. This allows friends or family from one other household to provide informal childcare.
- A childcare bubble is where one household links with one other household to provide informal childcare to anyone under 14.
- All adults in both households must agree to this arrangement. 'Informal' childcare means it is unpaid and unregistered.
- Members of either household can provide childcare in a home or public place. This includes overnight care.
- You can only have one childcare bubble with one other household. This means no household should be part of more than one childcare bubble.
- If you decide to change your childcare bubble, you should treat your previous bubble as a separate household for 10 days before forming a new bubble.
- This means following the rules on meeting people from other households. You should not provide childcare as if you are in a bubble during this period.

Whilst this may not be an option for some, this is safer than school as it will limit your child's interaction with others. Could you form a childcare bubble with another family?

The DFE has also stressed that key workers should keep their children at home if possible and this weekend launched a campaign urging us all to act as though we have the virus and stay at home. I understand the challenges of working from home when your children are also expected to



engage in remote learning. Many of our school staff are key workers, and are balancing working full time in school and teaching again when they get home.

I know this is the worry for many of you too; it really won't be easy or even possible some days to support our children as we would like. But please be reassured that we want you to prioritise safety over and above your ability to support remote learning. I know you care about your children and you want the very best for them; so do we. We will catch your child up when this is over.

Our learning offer was outlined in an email/ letter sent home last week and you will see that our teachers will be available for online live teaching and support in a way that wasn't possible in the summer, making this easier for you and your child to engage.

These live sessions will allow most children to work independently; please encourage this as they can and do work independently in school. This will hopefully give you some time to catch up with work emails etc.

We will do everything we can to support you and your child through this challenging time, but above all want them, the children in school and all the school staff and their loved ones to be safe and well. If we take in more children, this simply won't be possible.

If you now feel that you are able to keep your child at home please get in touch at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully

Elizabeth Ennew
Head Teacher

This list will help you to understand the priority order for whom we are able to offer places at school:

- 1) Vulnerable children - those on a CIN or CP plan or with a social worker
- 2) Children with an EHCP We would like these children in school full time unless we have discussed alternative arrangements with you.
- 3) Other vulnerable children - those with significant special educational needs, including significant mental health concerns, for whom we feel it is essential that they attend school for both their education and their mental health and wellbeing.
- 4) Key workers who are firstly:
 - NHS frontline clinical staff or administrators (e.g. NHS, 111 etc.) working directly with COVID-19 patients
 - First responders i.e. paramedics or those who support them
 - Teachers who are supporting the care of critical worker children onsite in another school
 - Police officers and some civilian police staff, e.g. dispatchers
 - Firefighters
 - Those in NHS support services needed to keep hospitals and clinics running
- 5) Key workers who are secondly:



- Other NHS frontline workers (e.g. midwives, pathologists, CT scan operators, radiographers)
- Local authority staff working in key emergency planning roles
- Those responsible for the management of the deceased
- Those medical staff involved in vaccination programmes

6) Key workers who are thirdly:

- Those in other NHS or private care roles who will not be called upon to assist in COVID-19 cases, e.g. care home staff, researchers, pharmacists, OT, NHS administrators, other medical specialities, etc.
- Social workers
- Those involved with the supply chain for supermarkets and pharmacies, e.g. supermarket delivery drivers and those in supporting logistics roles
- Those working in key transport roles, e.g. train/bus drivers
- Prison officers and some other prison staff or involved in the judicial system
- Those working in care homes or in the support of delivering meals/services to the vulnerable/elderly
- Community police officers

7) Key workers who are finally:

- Those involved in the water industry delivery or maintenance
- ICT or telecoms workers in critical roles (further evidence may be requested)
- Those employed in necessary government processes such as payment of benefits, etc.
- Probation service staff
- Those involved in fuel or gas deliveries or maintenance
- Transport and associated staff in support roles for transport services
- NHS medical students
- Those working in postal services and delivery
- Those working in waste disposal sectors

8) All then all other parents “whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response” as outlined by the government in the link [here](#)

