



Joy Lane Primary School

A Love of Learning, for Life, for All

Oyster Bay Nursery & Oysters SRP (ASD)

Executive Headteacher: Ms DJ Hines

Head of School: Mr M Ashley-Jones

Saturday 9th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important Change in Government Guidance for Critical Workers accessing a school place

Apologies for an e-mail during the weekend. However, this is important as there has been a change in the government guidance for the children currently accessing school.

We received an e mail yesterday at around 5.30pm with a change of wording from the DFE, reflecting the sentiment of the Prime Minister in the press today regarding the importance of families staying at home. This change has come due to the growing numbers of infections in the country, which was described yesterday as 'out of control' in some areas alongside concern about the high numbers of children accessing school places and therefore families who are mixing at school who are as a result in danger of both catching and spreading the virus.

The guidance has changed, and now says that '**parents and carers of critical workers should keep their children at home if they can**'.

We are aware and happy that many of you accessing school are doing just that, only using us when you have both parents at work in a key role for the Covid effort, as the guidelines.

However, for those families who do have an adult at home either full time not working or part time, of which we do have some accessing school, we would like you to consider the new guidelines and whether you should still be taking up that school place. We also have children being brought to school by others who are not parents – are they able to help out to avoid your child mixing in large groups, to minimise any risk?

Please e-mail the school office office@joylane.kent.sch.uk if you no longer need a place on some or all of the days that your child is accessing school.

The children who are doing home learning are undertaking exactly the same work as those at school, so are not disadvantaged in any way.

I will be in school from early on Monday and happy to discuss this further with any family who would like further guidance.

Yours sincerely

DJ Hines

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