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Dear Parents,

Yesterday's figures were particularly alarming with over 62,000 cases and over 1000 deaths, this is back to the March figures and the situation is only going to get worse before it gets better. Whilst the rates in the South West in the last lockdown were relatively low, there is little distinction now.

The law is that everyone has to stay at home and work from home where possible to start to bring down the transmission rates.

We currently have over 65 children, that is over a third of the children in school. During the last lockdown in March, most days we had 6 and never more than 10. This means that we need a significant number of staff in school for these children, with bubble sizes which are much larger than we feel is safe. Due to the large numbers, we are having to review our provision.

We have a legal obligation to provide remote learning to all of our children who are being home-schooled. If we have the staff in school with keyworker children, they cannot fulfil their remote learning duty. Yesterday the staff struggled, having been in class all day teaching to be followed with up to 100 emails and messages from children/parents regarding their learning. This did not include marking the work and giving feedback.

A place in school should be used as a last resort if you have no-one else in your childcare support bubble. If you are working from home, we ask that you keep your child at home for your and your child's safety as well as our staff's safety and the community of Winterbourne as a whole. The government list for workers seems extensive and to include most occupations, however the over-arching rule is that these occupations have to be 'Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response.'

In light of the above we are having to review our keyworker provision as a priority based service, please see below:

- All adults in your household are critical workers. (We may request further confirmation from employers as to your role in the crisis)
- You have no capacity to care for your child at home.
- If you are working from home, **keep your child at home with you.**
- If you work part-time, you **must only** use the school on the days that you are working.

Having looked at the criteria above, only the people who qualify must contact the school office to say that they still require a place.



I know that this will come as a bitter blow to some of you, and this is far from the situation that we want to be in, but the safety of **everyone** has to be a priority and we must be following the law of 'Stay at Home.'

Kind regards,
Kirsty Robson & Peter Hitchman

