



Swanmore Pyramid Cluster



Dear Parents / Carers of all schools in the Swanmore Cluster

We have taken the unusual step of writing to you all as a group of head teachers. This is because we want to do everything we can to collectively protect our staff, children and their families and our local NHS hospitals.

Critical workers

As you are aware we have had a greater number of places requested for the in school provision than we did during the March lockdown. Many thanks to the families who have already contacted us to let us know they will be looking at managing their shift patterns to try and make sure their children don't have to come in to schools every day. The more we can minimise the number of people in the schools this half-term, the lower the risk of transmission for everyone in our community.

The Department for Education (DfE) updated their guidance on Friday evening:

[Children of critical workers and vulnerable children](#)

In this latest version it states that "parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can".

Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We all appreciate that this time is hugely challenging for everybody and we very much want to do everything we can to support and provide for our essential critical workers. The reason that schools remain open at this time is to ensure that critical workers who need a place for their child can attend work. If you are classed as a critical worker and you can be at home with your child or you have a partner who is not a critical worker who is at home, then we would ask you to consider whether your child should be in school. If you are a critical worker and your partner does not work or you have alternative childcare provision such as a nanny, then you shouldn't be sending your child to school.

Please take the time, if you have not already done so, to consider whether you can provide care for your child at home regardless of the fact that one or both of you are critical workers or if you can reduce the number of days your child needs to be in school going forward, particularly if one or more of you work part time.

We are happy to be flexible so you can vary by week the days needed in school dependent on shifts changing.

We all know that this time is a challenge for every family and we will do anything we can to support your children with their learning, or signpost you to other support if needed. We thank you for your partnership in those efforts to educate and to protect our wider community from Covid19.

