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Headteacher: Anna Jones

Deputy Headteacher: Sally Mohamed

Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to our communication yesterday, I am sorry to have to tell you that we will have to close three year groups due to high numbers of staff absence and staff complying with Union advice.

**We have met with Governors today and this letter is subject to any legal and HR advice we might receive in the next few hours or days and therefore could be changed at short notice. It is also subject to any changes made by our Government in relation to the primary schools.**

We have managed to ensure we can remain fully open for today and tomorrow, but there have been additional absences today that has meant we can no longer open at full capacity beyond Tuesday.

The Governing Body and myself are supportive of all our staff and know that decisions made this week have been very challenging –our staff have worked tirelessly and professionally throughout this awful pandemic and continue to do so.

We will be closing the **Year 2, 3 and 5 bubbles** from Wednesday and providing Seesaw teaching and learning from 8.30 am on Wednesday morning. Those children who have requested paper copies will get these delivered.

Year 2, 3 and 5 will be open for Key worker children and vulnerable children only. These will be organised in year groups. Parents of vulnerable children will be contacted individually to discuss this option.

**I want to stress again that due to changing circumstances, key worker and vulnerable provision, as well as online learning, is subject to HR and legal advice.**

In order for us to quickly implement critical worker bubbles in **these year groups**, please could I ask if you could let us know:

\*whether you are a critical worker and whether you would be sending your child into school

If you could include the name(s) of your child(ren) and their classes that would be very helpful.

If you could let us know by email to the [adminoffice@shamblehurst.co.uk](mailto:adminoffice@shamblehurst.co.uk) hopefully by 10 am tomorrow, we would be very grateful. We know this is short notice but we will need to allocate



children in to bubbles and ensure we have adequate provision. Year group timings will remain the same.

The definition of critical worker is taken from the Gov UK document published on the 31.12.2020 and the list is provided at the end of this email.

**We would require ALL critical workers to present evidence of your employment to the school, even if you have done so before; this is due to many parental employment changes that have taken place since March 2020 and updated guidance of who qualifies as a critical worker (see below). This evidence must be proof of your CURRENT employment which could include a letter from your employer or work ID card/lanyard.**

These are the most challenging of times for everybody and these decisions have been reached as a last resort, and always with the children's and our community's best interests at heart.

This will be reviewed on Friday of this week and we will keep you informed.

Very best wishes,

Anna Jones

### **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.

### **Health and social care**

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

### **Education and childcare**

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

### **Key public services**

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system



- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

## Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of:

- the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), including in government agencies and arms length bodies

## Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)
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## Public safety and national security

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

## Transport and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on



transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure through which supply chains pass.

### **Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors

