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Tuesday 12th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware the Federation is currently closed to 'most pupils'. The Government has set out guidance as to who qualifies as 'Critical Workers or Key Workers' and these families are allowed to send their children into school, on the days they are at work. Nearly all schools (and certainly those within our geographical area) have found the number of children attending school has increased considerably since the first lockdown in March and indeed since we returned in January. At Parton Manor, numbers have almost doubled since the first lockdown in March.

I include the initial wording from the latest Department for Education guidance below:

'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... 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.'

With infection rates (and COVID related deaths) at an all-time high, I would ask that all parents continue to carefully consider if their child needs to be in school at this time. We realise that schooling from home is very difficult and balancing that with work commitments is even more challenging. Our Remote Learning offer has increased and developed since the first lockdown in March and this should help support learning at home. Moreover, I am aware that some key worker families are sending children to school when there is someone at home and as stated in previous communications, our offer may have to change if numbers at school escalate.

So, please only send your child to school **on the days where it is absolutely essential** to enable us to keep our school bubbles small and the risk of infection low, both here and in the community.

Written in good faith,

Mr D Preece