



Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has imposed a second national lockdown, with the clear message to **Stay at Home**.

We know that by adhering to this guidance in 2020, we were able to ensure that the transmission rate of the virus reduced significantly. We must now come together as a school family and local community to do the same again.

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for **vulnerable children** and the **children of critical workers**. Whilst the government have said that schools remain safe places for children, the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. **If your children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

From Wednesday 6 January, we will be able to provide face to face education for a limited number of children: children who are vulnerable and children whose parents and carers are critical to the Covid-19 response and EU transition response. **Many parents and carers working in these sectors will be able to ensure that their child is kept at home and every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

The government has now enabled families to use support bubbles for childcare. The guidance for this can be accessed from the link below and must be adhered to strictly:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-childcare-bubble-with-another-household>

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below.

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)



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



What do I need to do now?

If your work falls within the critical worker categories above, you should confirm with your employer that you are not able to work from home. If in addition to being unable to work from home, your child/children can't be cared for safely at home, then **please apply for a place in school using the link below.**

You need to complete an application for each of your children.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=K35ibQb-7E57xKihWXuBwBzBJ0QgApZGhA9jQ0I0HuVUNDg1Ukc1TkRVSk8xQUVNQIJBUkNUTDBCNS4u>

This must be completed by midday on Tuesday 5th January to enable us to allocate places and then inform parents and carers whether their children can attend school from Wednesday 6th January.

Places are going to be limited so please do not apply for a place if your child can be cared for at home. We are going to have to split our staff team between those working in school with children face to face and those educating children remotely.

Vulnerable children

The DfE consider a child to be vulnerable if they:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - care leavers

(QTS)

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Erica Wintle BA (Hons) PGCE

Mill Rythe Junior School, Havant Road, Hayling Island, Hampshire PO11 0PA

02392 463663 www.millrythejunior.co.uk



- others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

Mrs Ginn, Mrs Hodgson and Mrs Ayling will contact the parents and carers of children who are considered vulnerable before lunchtime tomorrow to see if they would like a place in school for their child. If you think your child is classified as vulnerable and you have not been called by midday, please call the school office on 02392 463663.

Free School Meals

We will be contacting parents eligible for FSM to share details of how these will be provided during the lockdown to children both in school and at home.

What happens next?

We will be working throughout Tuesday 5th January to plan for educating children both in school and remotely from Wednesday 6th January. Details of these plans will be shared later on Tuesday. If your child secures a place in school, we will notify you of this on Tuesday.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support through these unprecedented times. Please be assured that I will continue to update you as the situation changes and that we will continue to work for the best interests of the children at our school.

David Bessant
Headteacher
Mill Rythe Junior School