



Unsworth Primary School

Blackley Close, Unsworth,
Bury, Lancashire BL9 8LY

Head Teacher: Mr A Rhodes
Assistant Heads: Miss W Sinclair & Mrs T Ali

www.unsworth-primary.co.uk
[@unsworthprimary](https://twitter.com/unsworthprimary)

Contact Us
Telephone: 0161 766 4876
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08 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday evening, the Prime Minister announced that only children of critical workers and vulnerable children should attend school and other children should receive remote education. We returned to school on Wednesday though only received updated guidance late yesterday (Thursday afternoon) from the government.

In planning for our return we offered places in line with the guidance:

During the period of national lockdown schools will remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers only. All other pupils should receive remote education. Pupils who are self-isolating should not attend school. Clinically extremely vulnerable pupils are also advised not to attend school.

Schools should speak to parents and carers to identify who needs to go to school. If it proves necessary, schools can ask for simple evidence that the parent in question is a critical worker, such as their ID badge or pay slip. **Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.**

The overarching principle to apply is reducing the number of contacts between children and staff. This can be achieved through keeping groups separate (in bubbles) and through maintaining the distance between individuals. **Whilst schools are attended by vulnerable children and the children of critical workers only, where possible schools should keep group sizes small.**

When staff or children cannot maintain distancing, particularly with younger children in primary schools, **the risk can also be reduced by keeping pupils in smaller groups.**

The reality has been that the demand for places at our school has increased dramatically and beyond our expectations. Using the guidance as summarised above 128 pupils are eligible and the majority are attending (56% of our roll). Two classes have between 20-25 pupils whilst three others have between 15-20. We do not have the spaces or staffing to split classes into smaller bubbles.

Limiting attendance at school is about supporting the reduction of the overall number of social contacts in our communities. Last week, positive cases of COVID-19 rose by 40% in Bury. We remain one of the highest areas in Greater Manchester and there is evidence that the new strain of the virus is present in the Bury community. I need the teachers to focus their efforts on delivering the same offer to all pupils.





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Our comprehensive risk assessments provide a set of principles for infection control to effectively minimise risks of viral transmission. However, we now need further support from you if you are a critical worker and can keep your child at home. If you are a critical worker for part of the week we can agree with you the days you may require support.

Please could you consider how you could support this request and email into school office if you can reduce your child's attendance. The request is based on our desire to keep groups small and reduce transmission risks to children, staff and your wider families.

For children learning at home all face to face sessions on teams will be plotted in your child's calendar and will be the same times each week so that it helps build a routine at home. These face to face sessions are the same that are being delivered in class. From the start of the first lockdown back in March, we have tried to respond to the needs of our families and do the best we can for our children. We have adapted our offer throughout and will continue to do so based on your feedback.

The following links provide the detailed guidance we are now working to:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/950510/School_national_restrictions_guidance.pdf

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

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours Sincerely

Mr Rhodes

Mr A Rhodes

