



Whitstable Junior School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

There has been a great deal of speculation over the last few days as to whether or not schools will be safe to open. There is understandable concern and confusion around being in Tier 4 and other Kent localities moving to remote learning but others not. As my last letter stated WJS has been advised to be open from tomorrow (Monday 4th January 2021) for all children and currently our staffing levels are such that this is able to happen.

I have received a number of emails informing me that parents and carers have decided not to send their children back to school tomorrow. I wanted to take this opportunity to say that should you make this decision then the school will not be issuing fines, however the absences will have to be unauthorised. I'm afraid we can't provide home learning for families who decide not to send their children back in to school and Google Classrooms will only begin once the school moves to remote learning and only has children of critical workers and vulnerable children on the premises. The Oak National Academy <https://www.thenationalacademy/> is the website I have signposted parents to before. It has so many lessons on there for each year group and I have heard it is very good.

Should we be advised to move to remote learning, or face staffing issues which result in this being the only option, we will need to know which children will still be coming in to school because their parents or carers are Critical Workers and they cannot find alternative child care.

Here is a link to a Google Form which must be completed if you are a Critical Worker and intend to send your child/ren in to school. [Register for school place for child of critical worker](#)

This is just so we are prepared should things change. I ask that this is completed as quickly as possible and by 4pm tomorrow (Monday 4th January) at the latest. In the past you were able to select the days your child would be coming into school however that is not an option this time and if you want your child to come into school, they need to attend every day. I'm so sorry for the short notice and I hope you can understand that I am as frustrated as you with the poor timing of everything.

As always, I thank you all for the significant support that you have given throughout this challenging time. I will make every effort to ensure that we communicate quickly and clearly any new information as and when I am able to share it.

Warm regards,
Annie Knoupe
Headteacher

