

# Hutton Cranswick CP School

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Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## School Places / Key Workers

The new national lockdown has resulted in schools closing and remaining open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers **only**.

**The Government guidance states:** *limiting attendance (in school) is about reducing the number of contacts that all of us have with people in other households. We have resisted closing schools until now, but in the face of the rapidly rising numbers of cases across the country and intense pressure on the NHS, we now need to use every lever at our disposal to reduce all contacts outside households wherever possible. During the period of national lockdown, schools and colleges should only allow vulnerable children and the children of critical workers to attend. Children with at least one parent or carer who is listed as a critical worker are eligible for a school place.*

Based on the criteria above we currently have around 65 of our children attending school, which is **35%** of our school population. During the first lockdown we had about **8%** of the school population in attendance. The number of contacts for us in school (children and staff) has clearly become significantly larger. This inevitably increases the risk of the virus spreading and there is an increased risk of potential bubble closures. These numbers were not what we were expecting based on the figures from the first lockdown and the fact that childcare bubbles, e.g. grandparents or other bubble members, can currently be used for childcare during this lockdown period, unlike the previous lockdown.

If we have any further increases in pupil numbers, it will become harder to keep the standard of home schooling going and may result in us having to prioritise pupil places, in line with guidance from the Local Authority.

Please do think carefully about your needs and requirements and if your child can stay at home to learn, then they should. We are more than happy to accommodate different days each week for your child to reduce the number of children in school each day. For example, if both parents/carers are key workers but are on a shift pattern/rota, if there is a day each week someone is at home then your child should be at home on that day. This will help to reduce the number of children in school on a specific day and help us to keep staff and child contacts to a minimum.

Thank you for your continued support and working with us, to ensure we are keeping our children and staff as safe as possible during these continuing, challenging times.

Best wishes, Mrs Burkinshaw

