



HEATHWOOD LOWER SCHOOL, Heath Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 3AU
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Headteacher: Mrs Susanne Dove B. Ed (Hons), NPQH

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We write to you again with a situation we all hoped not to be in and certainly didn't wish for.

It is clear that whilst the rate of infection might be slowing, the COVID situation is still alarming and it is not at a safe enough level for all children to return to school; the Prime Minister has now announced that there will be no general return to school until 8th March 2021 **at the earliest**.

The Prime Minister is very clear that everyone should stay at home, including to work, unless their work categorically cannot be done at home. The Government guidance also says Parents and Carers should keep their child at home if they can. Our school provision must be guided by safety. Every additional child that we accept into our Critical Worker provision increases the risk to you, the children and our staff.

We are aware that some people's circumstances may have changed since 4th January and this means we need to review and refresh the places allocated for children coming into school after half-term. Unfortunately, there is now a waiting list for places, so we need to reallocate based on the prioritisation criteria. **We are asking that you all review your personal situation and reapply for a place using the attached form if the criteria is appropriate to your circumstances.** Please do not assume that you are guaranteed a place because you are accessing one now.

We will be prioritising places to those Parents and Carers whose work is COVID mission critical and have no other way to provide care for their children. Please do not ask for a place if you work from home, unless your work is of a confidential nature (and not for children's ears). This is an issue of safety, not entitlement.

Priority will be given in the following order:

1. Vulnerable children of Critical Workers (including children with an EHCP and/or social worker-assessed on a case by case basis)
2. Vulnerable children (including children with an EHCP and/or social worker-assessed on a case by case basis)
3. Children of a single parent Critical Worker who cannot work from home, or where both parents are Critical Workers who **cannot and is/are not** working from home (if you are a Critical Worker who is working from home, the Government expectation is still that you keep your child at home).

We know that this is hard. We know that this is inconvenient; we just all need to work together to break the chain of transmission in order for all schools to be open much quicker to all children.

Whilst we are operating under a lot of constraints, we will continue to deliver live lessons and remote learning via the Padlet for children in school and at home.

I am proud that we continue to work together as a school community. We continue to reflect on what works and, as always, are grateful for your continued support in these challenging times.

Stay safe

Mrs Susanne Dove
Head Teacher

Mrs Paula Bangs
Chair of Governors