



Cirrus Primary Academy Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 09642581. Registered office address: Avenue Primary Academy, Avenue Road, Sutton SM2 6JE

Correspondence/office address:
Barrow Hedges Primary School
Harbury Road
Carshalton
Surrey SM5 4LA

Telephone: 020 8643 4428

email: office@barrowhedges.com

Thursday 31st December 2020

**CORONAVIRUS (COVID -19)
DELAY TO THE FULL OPENING OF SCHOOL THE SPRING TERM 2021 FOR THE MAJORITY
OF PUPILS – until at least 18th JANUARY 2021**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Further to the correspondence sent last night after the announcement that Sutton schools are included in those that will only open next week to certain groups of children, we are writing to confirm the arrangements that we have put in place. We ask that you read the following information carefully.

Monday 4th January is an INSET Day (so school is closed to all pupils); this will still go ahead to allow schools to plan for the safe re-opening. The reviewed risk assessment will be available on the school's website on Monday 4th January.

In accordance with government guidance, our Nursery will remain open to all its pupils. Nursery will operate as usual (8.45am to 11.45am) and we will assume that Nursery children will attend as usual unless we hear otherwise from parents. If you do not intend to send your child back to Nursery for the time being, please inform us by email.

For all other year groups (Reception to Year 6), parents/carers will be able to apply for a Critical Worker place, or will be offered a 'Vulnerable child place' so that their child(ren) can return to school on **Tuesday 5th January, providing that the deadline for submitting a declaration form and relevant evidence is met.** This means children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response (and cannot be safely cared for at home) are able to attend school between 5th and 15th January 2021.

Critical Worker:

Parents and carers whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed in the link below, and you cannot support your child's learning at home, then your children will be prioritised for education provision.

[Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools](#)

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IF YOU ARE ASKING THE SCHOOL TO CONSIDER YOUR CHILD'S RETURN TO SCHOOL FROM TUESDAY 5TH JANUARY:

We ask that parents who are Critical Workers complete the form you will receive on Parentmail **by 12.00noon on Saturday 2nd January at the latest.** Your child's place will be **confirmed by email by 12.00noon on Monday 4th January.**

Make sure that you have confirmation of your current employment in a **Critical Worker** role – this could be in the form of your employment identity badge, police warrant card or letter of confirmation on headed paper signed by your employer. For us to offer to teach your child in school, we will need to see this to verify that you are employed in a **Critical Worker** role. We will verify your claim with your employer where necessary. Please email a scanned copy of this confirmation. **We need all parents to do this even if their child attended school in this capacity in the Spring/Summer terms – this is because circumstances change and we need to be equitable to all.**

Depending on demand, we may not be able to accept all pupils of parents making a request. Therefore, you must not bring your child to school if you have not received a confirmation email from us. **It is important that we know whether one or both parents are critical workers as we may need to prioritise places accordingly. The reason for this is that we are also currently reviewing how many staff are able to return to work next week – obviously some may need to isolate or unfortunately may have tested positive for COVID-19.**

Vulnerable pupils:

'Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.'

If your child is identified as vulnerable, the school will email you and ask you to confirm your child's place.

Please do not phone the school or come to the school office regarding this matter whilst we are trying to plan for this reduced provision.

Children who receive confirmation that they may return on Tuesday 5th January will receive a separate email with specific details about which gates to use etc but we can confirm now that the timings for the school day will be 8.40am to 3.10pm (our usual, pre-COVID timings!) and children should wear full school uniform please.

Blended Education:

For children not attending school during this period of delayed re-opening, we will write to you on Monday providing more information.

More information for parents and carers on closure of educational settings can be found here: [What parents and carers need to know about schools during Covid-19](#)

Thank you very much for your continued support in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Wood
Headteacher

Sharon Roberts
CEO