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12 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Keeping our Community as Safe as Possible**

I am writing today under the heading of “community” because it is our assembly theme of the week. Later in the week, I will be sharing a virtual assembly on this theme with all of the children but today there are some key messages to share with the whole school community as well. Some of this letter is particularly relevant to parents and carers who have children in school at the moment but we are sending it to all families in the interests of transparency and also because of the importance of these messages to all.

I am sure you are all aware that the local and national data regarding Covid-19 cases shows that the situation is currently very challenging indeed. The number of infections and confirmed cases continues to rise. We have received further national and local updates and guidance to support us in reducing the risk of transmission as much as we can during this current national lockdown.

Coventry Local Authority have told us that we must limit numbers within each classroom and, where numbers of vulnerable children and children of key workers would exceed this limit, have said that we should apply the following set of criteria to prioritising places for children of key workers:

- 1) Both parents are key workers (or in single parent families the single parent is a key worker)
- 2) One parent is a key worker and the other parent is not working from home
- 3) One parent is a key worker and the other parent is working from home

At Grange Farm, we have not yet needed to use this prioritisation system but we need all parents and carers to be aware that we are very close to having to do so, particularly in some year groups. To avoid doing so, it may be that we have to rearrange some of the groups in school so that children are not in a group with their usual class teacher.

I want to be absolutely clear that, where families need a place in school because of the jobs they do and/or their particular circumstances, this is absolutely fine. We have had lots of conversations with families during the past week and we know that many key workers out there are doing selfless and amazing things to keep us safe and to keep essential things happening. We also know the importance of school places being available where children would be very vulnerable without them. This is exactly why schools currently have on-site provision for the children that we do.

However, where key worker families have been able to do so, we have also much appreciated their efforts in helping us avoid a situation where we may need to prioritise places by keeping their children at home for some or all of the time. We know this isn't possible for everyone but if your circumstances change over the coming days and weeks, please do bear in mind that the smaller the number of children we have in school at any point, the more this reduces contacts and consequently the risk of Covid-19 transmission. This benefits children, staff and everyone in their households and beyond.

We are hugely thankful for the strong sense of community we have at Grange Farm and it is really important that we carry that on through this very challenging period. The “stay at home” message is clear ([you can read the government guidelines here](#)). Households must not mix unless they meet the government’s strict support bubble criteria and you may only go out for a very limited number of reasons. I urge all families, especially those where children are still attending school, to follow each and every one of the guidelines in place. Anyone taking chances and pushing boundaries (flexing the rules, even on the odd occasion) is increasing risks not just for themselves but also the entire community.

This is a time of significant challenge for us all and we should all be very grateful to be part of a school community where kindness, understanding and resilience shine through on a daily basis. I know it is hard – but please do keep on doing the right things in the right way.

Many thanks for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely

Mr Ledgard  
Headteacher