



15 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Critical Worker Parents and Carers at Greenway**

We thought that it would be helpful to provide you with an update around critical worker provision at Greenway following the letter sent on behalf of the Governing Body on 10 January.

We are immensely grateful for the messages of support received following this letter and for the engagement of all critical worker parents in reviewing their own situation. We really do understand the difficulties so many of you are facing juggling work commitments and/or remote learning as well as your own personal family circumstances and know that these are tricky and stressful times.

A great deal of time has been spent this week by Mrs Ellwood liaising with you and ensuring that the children being accepted into school are either vulnerable (which school is responsible for identifying) or those where either parent has a critical worker role, and it is not possible for the other parent to support their child/ren with remote learning at home. We know that many of you have been liaising with your employers and seeing what more you can do to support having your children at home during such a grave time when we are all trying to play our part in reducing community transmission.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking those critical worker parents who have either reflected on their situation and decided to take their children out of the provision on offer or reduced the hours/days initially required. The number of children accessing the provision daily has reduced but we continue to have over forty children accessing the provision across the week, and that is without Nursery class open. For those of you who are still liaising with your employers we look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

We know that it will have been an extra task for many of you, but we are really very grateful to have received letters from the employers of so many critical worker parents confirming their employment position. We are confident that the

steps taken by us are appropriate and very robust and that we have all done all that we can to ensure the safety of our immediate community.

### February Half Term

We thought that it would be appropriate to alert you that **current** thinking by the Local Authority is to support maintained schools to have a break during the forthcoming February half term. Clearly Government may well take a different view, particularly to support critical care workers during the holiday but no guidance has been received to date. We would expect an update by the end of January and should the position become clearer, we will of course advise you at the earliest available opportunity.

Regards,

**Katharine Ellwood**  
**Headteacher**

**Elizabeth O'Reilly**  
**Chair of Governors**