



Appletree Nursery School
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11th January 2021

Dear parents,

Thank you for your support during this very challenging time. We are currently receiving daily updates from Central Government and the Local Authority, Lancashire County Council, regarding keeping nursery open for children. Please see today's guidance that has been updated this weekend;

*"Whilst parents who are critical / key workers can ask for a place at school, even if this is one parent out of two, **the DFE has asked parents, even those who fall into the wider definition of critical/ key workers, to keep their children home if they can.**"*

Today, Lancashire County Council have agreed to contact employers to look at the frameworks that they are using when advising employees whether or not they are critical / key workers so that they can encourage parents to work from home where possible.

As we are currently being asked to provide places for a high number of children at Appletree, it is important that we are able to maintain a safe environment for all of these children, our staff team and the local community, to minimise the risk of spreading COVID in our local area. **Due to this, we will be contacting you weekly to confirm the dates for the following week when you are unable to care for your children at home due to work commitments.**

Places will be provided for children based on staff availability to work. In order to minimise staff infection from COVID, and being forced to close due to self-isolation periods for staff and children, please adhere to the national guidance and the school's parent agreement. This includes;

- all parents wearing masks when entering the school gates
- having only one parent on the premises at any given time
- keeping your distance from others
- avoiding bringing older children onto the premises where possible

Yours sincerely,

Christine Branscombe
Headteacher