Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for your support this week. It has been a challenging week due to mixed messages from the DfE and Government and then incredibly short notice to make changes. Your continued support and flexibility to adapt to these changes is truly appreciated.

The closure of schools was something everyone desperately wanted to avoid but the prevalence of the virus in the community is now so high that the Government felt closure of all schools was the safest option.

We all know that the **virus is transmitted through contact with others** and reducing the number of contacts is critical in our fight against Covid-19. We also know that it is impossible for children to social distance from each other and other adults **so schools present a high risk**.

**The message we must continue to follow**, as we did so well in the March 2020 lockdown, is to **stay home and save lives.**

I understand that many of you have jobs which make your child eligible for a school place. I understand that for some parents in specific roles they have no option to be able to work from home, however, we have seen a significant and worrying increase in the number of families requiring critical worker places this week.

In March we had just under 3% of our parents requiring a place in school. I know this was difficult for some parents to achieve but they understood why we needed to limit the number of children in school and managed to protect our community by keeping their children at home.

However, this week we have had over 25% of our parents requesting a place.

We will continue to provide in school places for those who are eligible, especially those who are vulnerable or are a child of a critical worker, however, we will also continue to assess the risk posed by such high uptake and may be forced to prioritise our offer if the safety of those on site is likely to be jeopardised as a result.

**Please can I urge you to re-consider if your child genuinely needs a place in school.** Do you have any other options such as child care support bubbles that could be used?

Thank you as always for your unwavering support of the decisions and actions we take.

**If, having considered the above you find you have capacity at home or within your extended family / child care bubble to support your child from home please let the school office know as soon as possible.**

Please keep yourself and your family safe.

Best wishes,

Mrs Docherty

Headteacher