



Bussage C. of E. (Aided) Primary School  
The Ridgeway, Bussage, Stroud, Glos.  
GL6 8FW

Head Teacher: Mr. Andrew Ferguson, B.A. (Hons)  
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4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and a Happy New Year! There can be no doubt that this has been a tough few weeks and the data seems to indicate that we have a few more difficult periods to navigate at the moment. Indeed, Head teachers and school leaders find themselves caught in the middle of conflicting arguments and advice which must seem extremely confusing and concerning to you as parents.

At present, I am following the advice that the school remains open. This could change rapidly for a number of reasons. Staff shortages may make it impossible to operate certain year groups or classes, the government may rapidly have to change its current policy and they have warned schools that the situation is under constant review.

If I have learnt one thing from this pandemic, it is not to guess what is going to happen next but to plan for every eventuality. It would therefore seem sensible to plan a response to a swift full school closure. We will be continuing to make sure we are ready with our online Google Classrooms Remote Learning Package as well as having books for work to be completed in.

Our school population has changed since the March Lock-down and I therefore need to revisit with you all which children in school would be classed as the children of Critical workers. They are classed as Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#critical-workers>

If you think you would qualify as a Critical worker and crucially know that nobody else would be able to provide child care to support you, please complete and return the slip below.

With the new variant of COVID being far more transmissible, it is somewhat surprising that at the moment, guidance around safety in school has not been updated. I have therefore discussed with staff additional layers of safety we shall put in place to make everyone safe and feel safe. All members of staff will wear face coverings when operating in communal areas.



I understand that transmission outdoors is extremely unlikely. I would however in the spirit of working together as a community, like to invite all adults to wear face coverings at all times whilst on the school premises. I shall not be policing this or indeed insisting on it. I just make this request politely on behalf of everyone here in school. Thank you.

It is also really important that we restrict contact on the school premises so please make sure you are aware of the drop off and pick up times and remain punctual. Thank you everyone for your support in all of these measures.

We will see what the next few weeks bring and if the situation changes you will know as soon as I do.

Kind regards

A Ferguson

Head Teacher



## Critical Worker Status Request

**Child(ren) and classes** \_\_\_\_\_

**Category of Worker as defined on the Government website (a confirmation form your employer may be required) If both parents are Critical Workers please indicate below:**

**Parent 1 Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Role** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent 2 Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Role** \_\_\_\_\_

Please copy and return via email