



Date 11 January 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

You will be aware we have entered our third national lockdown which means:
You must stay at home. The single most important action we can all take is to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives.

Leaving home

You must not leave, or be outside of your home except where necessary.

You may leave the home to:

- shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
- go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home
- exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.
- meet your [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#) where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one
- seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)
- attend education or childcare - for those eligible

You will also be aware this lockdown has included the closure of schools to all but vulnerable learners and learners of critical workers identified by the Department of Education which include workers 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. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school if required. This includes parents who may be working from home.

All other learners will work remotely from home.

Your child's school will have contacted vulnerable learner families to make arrangements for school attendance to school – this is highly encouraged.

Schools have been working hard to establish which families require a critical worker status place. We would like to remind parents the DfE have advised schools:

Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.

With this in mind we do ask parents and carers who do fall into the category of critical workers to consider whether it is necessary for your child to attend school. As you know the purpose of the national lockdown is to reduce the overall number of social contacts in our community. Central government have resisted restrictions on attendance at schools since the first lockdown but, in the face of the rapidly rising numbers of cases across the country and intense pressure on the NHS, we now need to use every lever at our disposal to reduce all our social contacts wherever possible.

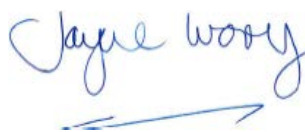
Therefore if you are able to support your child to learn at home we would encourage this so that we can collectively reduce the transmission rates of this virus.

Your child's school has worked extremely hard in a very short timescale to ensure remote learning for children and young people learning from home. We are very grateful as a council for the hard work of our schools in BwD in ensuring our children and young people's education will not suffer as a result of this current lockdown. If you do have any questions regarding your child's remote learning or wellbeing – please contact your child's school directly who will support with any matters that arise.

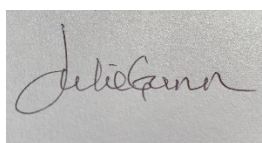
We do ask you to support the council in keeping to the lockdown rules and explaining to your child why these rules are necessary in the current situation.

Finally we would like to thank all our parents and carers for the support you have given since this third lockdown and we know you will throughout the remainder of the lockdown. We know it is not easy for families who have children and young people working from home – but together we will get through this.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Ivory
Director of Children's
Services & Education



Councillor Julie Gunn
Executive Member for
Children's Services &
Education



Joanne Siddle
Head of Education