

Weston CofE (VC) Primary & Nursery School

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7th January 2021

Dear parent or carer

I am writing to ask for your help.

Your child currently has a place available for them to attend school – either due to a parent having critical worker status or because they match the stated definition of being vulnerable.

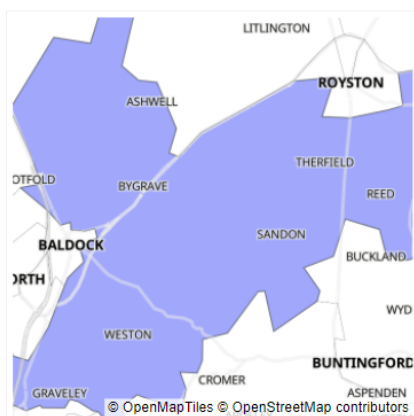
However, the high number of children currently eligible to attend school is creating two serious problems:

1. The risk of transmission of the virus at school is higher – this increases the risk to members of your household and to school staff.
2. Almost all school staff are in class every day, teaching the children who are here – this currently leaves us insufficient staff to provide the improved level of home learning we have planned.

As of yesterday there is a national, legally enforced, Stay At Home Order stating that the single most important action we can all take is to stay at home.

With the new variant, the risk from coronavirus to all of us is higher than it has been at any time – higher than it was in the previous lockdowns. As you can see from the picture below, the local rate of positive cases in our area is even higher than the national average for England.

SG4 7AG – Great Ashby, Ashwell & Barley



People tested positive by specimen date

Seven days to 1 January 2021

88

Rate per 100k resident population: **571.8**

How does this compare to England average?



Current alert level in North Hertfordshire

NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS

Source: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/search?postcode=SG4+7AG>

Ofsted Inspection Jan 2018 –

‘Pupils are confident and self-assured and enjoy their learning.’

‘Pupils behave very well.’



More than 100 people tested positive for Covid-19 each day in the last week in North Herts, with a similar rate in Stevenage.

For these reasons, I am asking you to only send your child to school if it really is your only option. If there is any way that you could keep your child safer by keeping them at home, then please do. For example, if you are able to work from home and/or another parent or member of a 'bubble' can do the same, please keep your child at home.

I understand that supporting your child with their home learning while you work from home is very challenging, but it is the safer option. If we can reduce the currently high number of children attending school, we will have more staff available to support the majority of families whose children are learning at home. This will therefore help the whole school community.

A number of parents who are critical workers are already contributing to this effort by keeping their children at home. I would like to thank them for doing this - I am asking you to do the same, if at all possible.

I apologise for having to ask you to change your plans at short notice. As you know, the school has had to make and then change its plans at very little notice this week.

I recently heard the phrase that "we need to re-discover the spirit of March" in our approach to this lockdown. Please find a way to keep your child at home if you possibly can, and please email admin@weston.herts.sch.uk to let us know your plans.

Regards,

G. Holmes
Head Teacher