



11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are sure that you will be as alarmed as we are about the rising number of deaths, new infections and hospital admissions recorded last week. Over 81,431 people have now died from the virus and last week around 55,000 people tested positive for the virus every day. Hospitals are becoming overwhelmed in parts of the Country. We are deeply concerned.

Late on Friday, the Government issued new guidance to schools which states that the children of key worker parents should stay at home if their parents are able to work from home, and on Sunday, the Minister for Health stated that parents should only send their child to school if they are actually out at work.

This guidance was issued in response to concerns regarding the high number of children in schools during this lockdown. Across our Trust the number of requests for places is rising. Obviously, this is counter-intuitive when the sole aim of this lockdown is to reduce the transmission rate at a time when the infection rates are spiralling out of control across the country.

The more children we have in school, the greater risk of infection, transmission, and illness. With infections come bubble closures, staff absences and a significant impact on the school's ability to function in the way we need it to.

We understand that this will be a massive inconvenience to you, and pressure you do not need, but we urge you to take heed of the government guidance and get in touch with school either via email or telephone to relinquish your school place if you are a key worker and working from home. If you are a key worker, but only need a place for some of the time each week, we urge you to contact your school to explain this, and only bring your child into school at those times when you really need the place allocated to you.

We are acutely aware of the strain that this places upon parents who are having to home-school while balancing all of the other home stresses and work. Therefore, we have tried to shape our home learning package to enable flexibility to work around all the other pressures you must be facing.

Thank you once again for your support during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Vickerman".

**Sue Vickerman**  
CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John North".

**John North**  
Chair of the Trust Board