

The Quinta Primary School

Lockdown 2 Parent Information

- Everyday Excellence
- Authentic Care
- Independence
- Opportunity

“If children can stay at home they should.”

Dear parents and guardians,

It is not possible for me to convey quite how demoralised and upset we all are here at The Quinta that primary schools have had to shut for a second time until Monday 22nd February at the earliest. The staff here have worked tirelessly closing the gaps and rebuilding the emotional wellbeing and mental health of pupils that resulted from the last lockdown. That said, keeping everyone safe is our number one priority and so in the following letter, I will outline the immediate steps we are taking to ensure our community is kept as safe as possible whilst still making sure the pupils continue to receive the very best education both pastorally and academically that we can provide.

Critical Workers

The number of parents who have completed the critical worker form is meaning that the school is struggling to stay safe. Not only is your child in more danger but in turn, so is your immediate family, the school staff and the wider community of Congleton. At present, Congleton has a lower COVID prevalence than much of Cheshire East and it is our duty to do everything we can to keep it that way. This is not about entitlement but is about doing what is right for the greater good of society. Our pupils will be in year group bubbles as this is the safest for pupils, staff and yourselves. Children will not be mixing with any other year group.

This week, we are accepting pupils of families where 1 parent is a critical worker. For those who are intending on taking up a place in school from next week onwards we will be asking for you to provide **evidence from your employer** to prove that you hold a position which is a **‘critical role in the coronavirus response’**.

In order to ensure the school is safe and for those isolating to receive online learning, the school has a limited number of places - **approximately 20% of the school**. (80 pupils).

Where the number of pupils exceed this, the school will be forced to impose stricter criteria in the following order:

1. Parents of vulnerable pupils (EHCP or social care)
2. Single parents who are critical workers
3. Both adults are critical workers
4. One of the critical workers is employed in public services.

The form for applying for school places for Monday 11th January to Friday 15th will be sent out tomorrow and places will be offered following the criteria above. You will be notified via text if we can accommodate your **emergency** childcare needs.

The list of critical worker criteria is attached below:

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

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Lockdown 2 Staff Information

Preschool

In the statement that the Prime Minister gave last night, he said nurseries **can** remain open. However, we are currently taking time to consider the position we have been placed in: where a 4 year old is safe in a reception class but not in a nursery class and a reception teacher is unsafe with a 4 year old in school but safe with a 4 year old in preschool . If the government's position remains the same and we are provided with enough evidence to support there being significantly less risk for nursery staff than reception staff we will open preschool the very next day but **for the next 3 days preschool will only be open to vulnerable pupils and critical workers**. We are fully aware of which schools in Congleton have opened their nurseries but please bear in mind every setting has completely different contexts, numbers and staff.

School day

From tomorrow the school day in school for all pupils will be **9am until 3pm**. Our full home learning provision will start from Monday and for the rest of the week activities will look similar to today with videos and more direction instruction increasing in order to support your child with their work. If your child is attending school we ask for uniforms just as we did in the previous lockdown.

Remote learning

From Monday 11th at the very latest all home learning activities will be live for 8am. We have kept as close to a typical morning across the school.

As such: from Y1-Y6 the provision will be as follows:

Early bird maths

A maths lesson

Whole class reading

Writing (with some SPaG)

PHSCE (on Monday-Wednesday)

Additionally there will be a slide or a couple of slides weekly outlining some additional (optional) activities related to the objectives your child would be following in the wider curriculum such as geography and history.

There will be PE challenges and activities as in the previous lockdown.

At The Quinta home learning was not optional last time and the government has now raised the expectations in line with our practice. **It is no longer optional for children to engage but a legal requirement to do so**. We will be monitoring and registering the children who engage again as we did last time.

Home learning was incredibly successful last time and those who fully engaged have returned with significantly smaller gaps in their knowledge and skill than those whose engagement was inconsistent.

We know based on prior experience that almost all families at our school engage with the online learning, a real strength at The Quinta in the previous lockdown. In order to ensure this continues we are introducing further support and escalation for children who do not engage with

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home learning. In order to ensure that there is no 'lost' learning time, if your child has not completed any work by the end of this week then their teacher will check in via a phone call to ensure that you have the correct Seesaw codes, adequate devices etc. **If you do not have a device on which to do home learning then please inform the school office.** If on Monday 11th there is no work then your child's teacher will call you the following day to check in. If there is still no response or work continues to not be completed then the matter will be escalated.

Wraparound Care

For those who require before or after school childcare, we are committed to helping in order to enable front line services to continue. Club Quinta will be open from 7am until 9am and after school from 3pm until 6pm in the same way it is currently. This will be reviewed on a weekly basis.

Risk Assessment

An updated risk assessment will be available on the school website by tomorrow afternoon to reflect the changes to the setting.

On behalf of all of the staff at The Quinta, I would like to thank you for the overwhelming support you have shown in the first 24 hours since the news broke. We have received a number of heartwarming messages on Seesaw which rallied the staff.

Take care and kindest regards,

Will Sharpe