



Dear parents and carers,

Thank you.

Yet again we have been forced to change the way we work as a community and the part that The Quinta plays in supporting the local effort. I can not overstate my thanks to every parent and carer who has engaged with the school this week. We know, regardless of whether you have been able to keep your children at home and do what you can to support their education or whether you have had no option other than to send your children to school for essential childcare, that you are doing everything you can to play your part in suppressing the virus in our community and supporting the school to remain open for those who need it the most.

### **What is the school's position?**

**School is not closed. Preschool is not closed.**

This week over 100+ pupils have accessed childcare at The Quinta safely. Preschool has had over 20 pupils.

The school is open to pupils where the family has absolutely no other options available to them for childcare during this lockdown period. We are here for all of you. The school has had to ask for evidence of employment status because we cannot sustain a safe environment in the way we are currently operating **and** provide remote learning for those pupils who are able to isolate at home **if** numbers grow beyond one class per year group. At this point, we would have to apply the additional criteria in order to ensure we can continue to operate safely.

### **Is school safe?**

In short, **yes**. School has never been unsafe. The measures we put in during the first lockdown and then the wider opening have meant that as a school we have not had any cases of localised outbreaks where a case has caused multiple infections.

## Should I send my child to school?

Regardless of whether you qualify as a 'critical worker' or not the message from the government and all health professionals that we have spoken to is, 'If you can stay at home, then stay at home.'

### **Summary: what you can and cannot do during the national lockdown**

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.

In fact many of our critical workers have not chosen to send their children into school where it isn't essential and for that, we thank you. As a school, we now have clear evidence of who will be able to access priority places should the numbers grow too large to manage both online provision and safe face to face working in school.

## **I'm not a critical worker but desperately need help.**

**Get in touch.** If we can accommodate you, even if it's only for one day a week without compromising the places for critical workers, the safety of the systems already in place and the ability to provide excellent remote learning then we will do our best to support you.

## **Remote Learning**

You should already have seen a marked improvement on the provision from last lockdown, which we know was incredibly successful for the vast majority of our pupils in the summer.

## **Why are we not providing live lessons when other schools are?**

Quite simply because for the vast majority of our families this simply wouldn't work.

- Technology issues e.g. inexplicable log offs/ blackscreening, microphone/speaker issues
- Connectivity issues e.g. broadband width, internet access, buffering
- Device allocation issues i.e. not every child may have a device in some families
- Parent/carer work commitment issues i.e. conference call/shift at same time as lesson timetabled
- Not understanding a concept and therefore pausing the whole class.

## **How are we improving remote learning?**

- If you do not have a device, we are now in a position to loan out a school ipad so that you can access the remote provision. We will require a signed agreement for liability. Please contact the school office if you need a device.
- We have asked teachers to record video and voice instructions so that your children, certainly in the older year groups, will be more independent and should require less parental support. We have already had feedback that this has been the case which is brilliant.
- Our feedback will be more consistent across the school. You can expect feedback on work uploaded where pupils have needed some further direction.

- Additional activities for the week. In the first lockdown we offered one additional foundation subject to work on in the afternoon and maths, reading and some writing. Now our morning's work follows the same structure as a typical morning in school: early bird maths, maths, reading, writing and PHSCE (on a Monday-Wednesday). In addition to this, a wider selection of foundation subject activities are on offer for your child to choose from if they require additional work.

The admin team and staff have been in school all week supporting anxious parents but if you have any emergencies that arise over the weekend that we can support you out with then don't hesitate to email [head@thequinta.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@thequinta.cheshire.sch.uk) and I will do my best to help.

In other news, we'd like to extend a warm Quinta family welcome to James and Emilia Garside who have joined the school this week.

Have a great weekend,  
Will Sharpe

### Key Information

The government fruit scheme has stopped this week for KS1. If your child is still in school and usually has fruit please make sure they are given an additional snack if needed.

### Safeguarding

While the majority of our children are remote learning please be mindful of their device usage - in particular their phones - as this may increase throughout the day. The age limit for Whatsapp is currently 16+ and yet we know that a lot of our children use this. Whatsapp groups can be an area where online bullying takes place and children can struggle to read the tone of messages.

A lot of upsets that children have are often exacerbated by online messaging as there isn't the usual 'cool down' period and arguments can carry on. Please encourage your child to begin to develop boundaries with their phone as we know how difficult it can be as adults to limit our screen time.

### What parents need to know about Whatsapp



## Reminders

✓ Applications for reception places for 2021

A reminder that places for reception in 2021 need to be submitted by 15th January. The poster with further information is on the admissions page on the school website.

✓ Order snack

Please make sure you order your child's snack on your Scopay account if you still require it. Snack is ordered the same way as school dinners.

✓ Reading Plus and TTRockstars

Please ensure that your child is still logging onto TTRockstars and is completing their expected correct answers for the week. KS2 parents are reminded that at least 5 Reading Plus lessons are expected to be completed each week. Thank you.