



Hollybrook Infant & Junior Schools

Seagarth Close, Southampton, SO16 6RN Seagarth Lane, Southampton, SO16 6RL
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info@hollybrookinfant.co.uk
www.hollybrookinfant.co.uk

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Headteacher: Ms Marcella Dobson

Deputy Heads: Mrs Clare Clifford & Mrs Lisa Alderslade

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to all those who have requested a childcare place for their child/ren under the critical worker or vulnerable pupil criteria.

We have been overwhelmed by the number of applications. We have had well over a hundred and thirty applications. This number is going to make the operation of safe groups in school whilst offering a quality remote learning package to pupils extremely challenging.

We must stress that children at school will be doing exactly the same learning as the children at home. There will be no additional lessons, it is purely childcare provision to allow critical workers to be able to fulfil their professional duties.

Whilst I understand that having your child at home is not ideal and can be inconvenient and challenging, it is the safest place for them to be at the moment as the virus threatens our community in a new and more virulent form as described by the government last night.

I appeal to you to think very carefully about whether the application for a school childcare place you have made is an absolute necessity. **All those who can be at home should be at home, adults or children, we are trying to bring this pandemic to an end.**

I am now put in the position of having to decide who should and should not have a place. Please remember, the criteria issued by the government as to who does or does not qualify as a critical worker is guidance, not legislation. I am obliged to apply such guidance in a manner which ensures the health and safety of the staff, pupils and school community. This will be my first and only guiding principle.

I would urge you once more to consider your family position. Is your role critical? Will you be working 9 – 5 every weekday? Is there no-one at home who can care for the children? Are you requesting a place that may mean a frontline medical worker misses out?

As we have previously requested, it is essential that ID or a letter from your employer is shown to the office in order for us to secure your child's place as a critical worker child. Once this has been checked, we will write to confirm your place.

We will shortly be sending out a survey for you to complete so that we know which days you will need this childcare. Please ensure you only request days where you have absolutely no other childcare options.

From tomorrow school lunches will be available to purchase for those not eligible for free school meals, continuing the current menu cycle.



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The school timings for infants are 8.45 – 3pm and for juniors are 8.45 – 3.10. **Children should wear their school uniform Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On a Wednesday please send your child in wearing their PE kit.**

The entrance and exit points are as follows:

- Year R- Foxes door
- Year One- Rabbit door
- Year two- Badger door
- Year 3 – Red doors to the hall off the main playground
- Year 4 – Through 4M class door
- Year 5 – Fire escape on the main playground
- Year 6 – Fire escape in the main car park

Please ensure you send your child in tomorrow in their PE kit ready for PE and then school uniform on Thursday and Friday.

The days your child is not in school we would expect them to be continuing their learning using the online home learning as set by their teachers.

Whilst your child is in school, they will not necessarily be taught by their own class teacher. The way we have organised the staff rota means that they will be taught by a known adult, who will more often than not, be an adult from their year group.

If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Kind regards

Marcella Dobson
Headteacher