

Dear Families,

I would like to start by thanking you all for your support during the last four weeks. I am aware of the impact that this current lockdown is having on families and how hard everyone is currently working. I know this is taking many forms, whether this is to support remote education at home with your child whilst working, or carry out a critical worker role in the community.

With that being said, I need to highlight the fact that we have seen an increase in demand for critical worker places. In some cases, we are approaching normal class sized groups. The situation has been ever changing and now due to the significant increase in demand, I am asking all families to carefully consider their need for the place. I appreciate keeping your child at home has its complexities and will more than likely involve you juggling your own work commitments whilst supporting and caring for them. I know this is not ideal and not what you would choose to do, but please remember we have a range of support we can offer to assist with this. So you are aware this includes:

- Support accessing technology
- Ability to apply for data increase, if needed
- Across the academy the lessons accessible for those at home are the same as those delivered on site
- Live teaching is recorded so lessons can be accessed at a time convenient to your family's timetable
- Work is marked and feedback to be given
- Children to have access to the teacher through extended Google meet time at the end of the lessons
- Break out rooms and intervention/1:1 support where needed
- The opportunities for your child/children to interact with their peers
- Regular welfare phone calls from the academy to check in and offer any further support if needed
- A dedicated remote learning email address which is checked regularly
remotelearning@lofthousegate.outwood.com

If you do still feel that you require a critical worker place can I please ask you apply the following:

- **Only book the places that you need** as we have seen significant demand for places in the provision. As you will be aware, we are also live teaching all of our children remotely and therefore our staffing capacity for onsite provision is limited. As a result, **if demand exceeds our capacity we will have to begin limiting places and prioritising provision.**
- If there is an adult at home, then the child **should remain at home.**
- Be aware that any new bookings may now **not be placed in their registered class** due to capacity limitations. We will re-bubble the children to their normal class group on the full re-opening of the academy.
- If you no longer need the place that you have booked, then you **cancel it in advance as soon as you know it is not required.** This means that we can make it available to another critical worker who may desperately need the provision in order to support the country's fight against the spread of the virus.
- Be aware that we may need to close to groups of children should there be a reported positive COVID case within a bubble. It is therefore important that as critical workers, you **plan alternative emergency arrangements** in the eventuality of us having to inform you of the need for your child to isolate. This is beyond our control and we are not able to offer alternative arrangements as

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isolation of close contacts is a key way of controlling the spread of the virus and a legal requirement of the academy. **Please help us limit the chance of this by maintaining 2m social distancing when on the academy site.**

Thank you all for your continued support during this time. I know that I speak for the whole staff team when I say that the feedback we have received and the positive comments regarding the curriculum we have in place, both in school and remote, have really given us a well needed boost at times.

We all have a role to play in this global pandemic and I know for some how challenging and conflicting those roles can be. However, please remember that this is a difficult situation for so many people for so many reasons, and at the moment **your best is good enough.**

Please contact the academy if you need to speak to any member of the team. Stay safe, be kind to each other and yourselves.

Yours faithfully,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in grey ink, which appears to be 'L Hadfield'.

Mrs L Hadfield
Principal