



5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year, although this does seem rather misplaced in the light of what we are all facing during this horrible pandemic.

The Government has now placed the country into another lockdown and closed schools for most children. The essential message is that people should stay at home, this is a particularly difficult and dangerous time for the country as our National Health Service faces a real crisis of capacity. We have been asked by the Government to continue to provide educational provision in school for **vulnerable children and the children of 'critical workers'**. At the same time, we are focusing on making sure the quality of remote education for the majority of children who will be at home is as good as it can possibly be. We do have further limitations on our operations in school as in order to further reduce the risk of transmission within school we need to reduce group sizes significantly.

Staffing will also be a challenge for us as we battle the effects of the virus on individuals and balance the work of delivering high quality remote education and catering for the much smaller number of children who will be in school.

As a result we can only offer school provision for those parents/carers who really need it, with the first priority being our most vulnerable children. I would ask you to look very carefully at the critical worker information on the DfE website – [Critical Workers List](#) and think how you might be able to provide for your children at home rather than using the very limited capacity we will have in the schools. The school provision is for those who are critical workers and who **cannot work from home**. If too many people request places schools will have to introduce some 'rationing' of provision or part time provision.

We need your support to make sure that the places that are available are for those that absolutely do need them and it is worth remembering that the safest place you and your children can be is at home.

Thank you for all your support during these incredibly difficult times.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Sheriff**  
CEO – Red Kite Learning Trust

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