

12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Critical Worker Places**

I am writing to inform you that we have now **reached full capacity** for critical worker places at Tonge Moor. We are currently working at **40%** capacity, with all the staff working extremely hard to provide face to face teaching or remote learning. We are concerned that if we were to increase pupil numbers further that we could increase chances of a bubble closure due to the number of staff and pupils on site. During the past lockdown in March we were working at **15%** capacity this was due to tighter restrictions in the guidance for critical/key worker places. We also found that demand was lower with many parents feeling it was safer to home educate.

#### **Do I need to accept my critical worker place?**

All families with 1 critical worker are eligible for a school place. However, if your family are in the position that you can keep your children at home (as you or your partner is able to work from home) we **urge you to consider this carefully**. We understand that working from home whilst trying to educate your children is extremely hard work. Staff have also been in the same position and fully appreciate the difficulties. However, we are concerned that higher numbers of pupils on site could increase the chance of transmission resulting in bubble closures.

#### **What if I need a critical worker place in the future?**

If you find that you are eligible for a school place as you or your partner meet the critical worker guidance ([Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/critical-workers-and-vulnerable-children-who-can-access-schools-or-educational-settings)), please feel free to contact the office on [parentkeyworker@tongemooracademy.org](mailto:parentkeyworker@tongemooracademy.org) and we will keep your request on a waiting list. If a place becomes available we will inform you.

#### **Thank you**

We want to thank you again for being so understanding during this difficult time. We were given short notice last week about the school (part) closure, you were all extremely accommodating and understanding. We have received lovely letters, emails and verbal feedback, this has really raised our spirits and is much needed and appreciated.

The staff at Tonge Moor are proud to support the NHS and critical workers in the fight against coronavirus and come to work each day willing to put their anxieties to one side

Head of School: Mrs N. Whittaker

Tonge Moor Primary Academy, Brierwood, Bolton, BL2 2PF

Telephone: 01204 328994 Website: [www.tongemooracademy.org](http://www.tongemooracademy.org) Company Registered Number: 07628909

to provide for your children both face to face and remotely. I am extremely proud of the Tonge Moor family and want to take this opportunity to thank them for their resilience and determination during this time.

Thank you again to all of our Tonge Moor Families for your support.

Kind Regards,

**Mrs Whittaker**  
Head of School

Head of School: Mrs N. Whittaker

Tonge Moor Primary Academy, Brierwood, Bolton, BL2 2PF

Telephone: 01204 328994 Website: [www.tongemooracademy.org](http://www.tongemooracademy.org) Company Registered Number: 07628909