Good Evening

I can honestly say I did not anticipate that I would be writing this letter again; I am sad to be doing so for many reasons.

Firstly, I hope you are all ok following the announcement of the national lockdown. Judging by the worrying statistics over the past few days, I don’t think it has come as an enormous surprise to most of us.

For information, BCS would have been fully open prior to this announcement, I think it’s important that you are aware that all staff were fully committed to pursue face to face learning with our pupils and I am grateful to them for that. We are meeting in the morning to finalise our remote learning planning and approach; originally we were to have some English training but that has been postponed to later on in the year.

As in the previous lockdown we will be open to the two groups of children specified by the Government; Vulnerable children and those children of Critical Key workers. One of the main reasons for me contacting you this evening is to make a start on establishing the children who are able to attend school under these headings. A request form is attached to this parent mail but must be returned by **12pm tomorrow, Tuesday 5th January 2021**. We hope to be able to offer the Critical Key Worker places from Wednesday 6th January 2021.

As before, I ask you to take note of the Critical Worker guidance as this will be used when considering a place: **:** [**https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision)

Also as before, I respectfully request that you give full consideration to your application for a place (including the number of days actually required) and keep in mind that my staff also need and deserve to be protected as much as possible, as do their own families. We do not have unlimited Critical Key Worker places as it would defeat the object of school closures if we had too many children in school. Places will also not be allocated on a first come, first served basis; I will consider the front line occupation element of requests, particular those of you who work for the NHS in a medical capacity as an immediate priority.

There are a number of things I would like to say to reassure you that we continue to have our BCS children’s wellbeing and learning at the forefront of our minds and even more so now. However, I feel that we already have that mutual understanding and now, together, we will get through the coming weeks by being clear with our communications, keeping calm and being kind.

I will be in touch again tomorrow.

My very best wishes

Nikki Stevenson