 **Great Bardfield Primary School**

**Great Bardfield, Braintree, Essex, CM7 4RN**

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**Headteacher: Mrs Crow**

Thursday 20th April 2023

Dear parents and carers,

As you are probably aware, there is to be more planned industrial action by the National Education Union in a bid to address the crisis facing our education system. Myself and my staff are extremely disappointed that initial talks with the education secretary have not led to any form of resolution. From my previous correspondence in January, I am sure you understand the absolutely dire situation our schools are in, particularly small, rural schools like ours.

I am writing to you let you know that on **Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May, school will be open to only our most vulnerable children and the children of critical workers who cannot organise alternative childcare.** Having conducted a detailed risk assessment, and using the information I have at the current time, it is clear that we may not be able to provide a safe environment for your children on these two days. My staff are under no obligation to inform me of their intention to strike and I know that lots of them are wrestling with their consciences in order to make a decision regarding this round of industrial action. Nobody wants to strike.

On these two days, we will only have very limited capacity in school and so I ask you to support us byonly seeking a place if **both parents are critical workers and you have no other option** but to send your children to school. If requests surpass our maximum numbers with regard to our risk-assessment, I will make decisions based on individual cases. If you need to request a place for your child on either or both of the days, please return the form attached by Monday 24th April via **email only.** You will be contacted on Monday evening via text if we are able to accommodate your requests.

We will not be in a position to deliver the National Curriculum on this day but teachers will be setting remote home learning via Tapestry/Seesaw. We understand that this may prove challenging for some of you while juggling other commitments, so the work will consist of revision based activities. We do not want you to feel under any added pressure and there will be no judgement from us if your child cannot complete these tasks.

As always, I would like to thank you for the support you continue to show the school and staff. I completely understand that this situation is far from ideal for any of us and it is important that we continue to work together at this time.

Kind Regards



Mrs Crow

Headteacher

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| **Request for a critical worker place at school on Thursday 27th April** | | | | |
| **Name of child/children:** | |  | | |
| **Critical Worker**  (name of parent) | **Critical Worker Role** | | **Place of work**  (including address, postcode and contact number for line manager) | **Days of week and hours worked** |
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| **Request for a critical worker place at school on Tuesday 2nd May** | | | | |
| **Name of child/children:** | |  | | |
| **Critical Worker**  (name of parent) | **Critical Worker Role** | | **Place of work**  (including address, postcode and contact number for line manager) | **Days of week and hours worked** |
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