



07/01/21

Dear Parents/Carers,

Child Care Provision

There is already have a much higher number of children accessing our child care provision than during the previous full lockdown. Parents of children who may be classed as vulnerable, or who we think may benefit from coming into school, will be contacted by the end of this week. Part time places are likely to be offered for these children. If you still need to a book a place for your child, please go to https://www.st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk/web/january_2021/530103.

The new variant of the virus appears to be more easily transmitted and infection rates in Brighton and Hove are currently amongst the highest in the country. You can find weekly updates here - <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/covid-19-key-statistics-brighton-hove>. There is still no clear evidence that this new variant is more dangerous for children BUT if they carry it, they may affect your household, you families, school staff and the families of school staff.

Therefore, you must ONLY send your child to school/request a childcare place if it is absolutely necessary for childcare reasons or for reasons of vulnerability. If there are 2 parents in the family, even if they don't live together, they should both offer care/support. If there is a parent/carer at home, this is where the child MUST be. If there is another member of the household who is at home and can provide Childcare, then children must access this and NOT come to school. If you can work from home, you must. If you can talk to your employer about changing shifts/rotas, you must, so it reduces the amount of time your child is in school. If you have a day off, your child MUST NOT come to school. Whatever YOU can do to reduce the amount of time your child spends at school will be a positive step for them, your family, the school community, and, will contribute towards reducing the infection rates in Brighton and Hove.

Your child cannot come to school, just so they get help with their remote learning.

Remote Learning

Thank you so much to those of you who have supported your child to engage with Seesaw, our Remote Learning provision. I know staff are overwhelmed with the response in some classes - thank you. This is a new system to all of us and teachers have only had limited training with Seesaw so please be patient with us! As the week's progress, teachers will reflect on the best activities and refine the provision. I am sure you will all agree though, the teachers are doing an amazing job and the Seesaw App is a great way to engage your children.

For those children that are attending school, staff are working hard to ensure they complete their remote learning here. However, this is also a learning curve for staff so again, please be patient with us.

There are still SOME children who have not yet accessed the learning on Seesaw – it is really important that you support them to do this, as soon as possible. Children can access Seesaw on many devices – laptop, tablet, smartphone and even the Xbox.

'Let Your Light Shine' (Matthew 5:16)





Help with Technology

There are various ways that you may be able to access help with technology but all of them take time to organise so PLEASE act quickly. If you can make your own arrangements for technology, you should, even if it means sharing your mobile phone with your child or children sharing devices.

If your family currently or has previously had support from a social worker, please email admin@st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk with your child's name and the name of the social worker. Although there has been no new allocation of social care laptops, we may be able to loan you a device. If you have already received a social care device, you cannot have another one.

The school should be allocated some more laptops but these will take some time to arrive. If you would like your child to be considered for one of these, please email admin@st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk ASAP with the name of your child and the reason they should be considered. However, please remember you will need to make alternative arrangements in the meantime as these will take some weeks to arrive. There will only be a VERY small number of devices to loan to families.

If you are loaned/given a device, you will still need to access the internet at home. If you cannot access the Internet at home OR you only have a limited data allowance, there are possibilities to help.

Firstly, we have MANY Vodafone SIM cards here which will give you 30GB of data FREE for 90 days. You can use this in a mobile phone and/or a SIM card dongle in a laptop. You can also use it in a mobile phone to use it as a mobile hotspot for other devices. Please email admin@st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk if you would like one of these SIM cards.

Secondly, the school can apply to increase your data allowance. Please email admin@st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk with your child's name, the name of your mobile network provider, the name on the account and the mobile number. The school will then make an application on your behalf to your network provider. There are no time scales set for this so as soon as you submit your information, the sooner an application can be made on your behalf.

Finally, the school can apply for a router to loan you. This will have a data SIM card in it which will last until the end of July. After that, you would have to pay for data or use one of the free Vodafone SIM cards, if they are still valid. If you are interested in this, please email admin@st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk with your child's details.

If you have any working but unused smartphones/tablets at home that you would like to donate to the school, they would be very welcome! If you had the charging wire as well, it would be brilliant!

I appreciate this is a lot to read – please ask for help if you need it.

Kind Regards

Katie Blood
Headteacher

'Let Your Light Shine' (Matthew 5:16)

