



04/01/21

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know, due to the rise in Covid Infection rates, Brighton and Hove Council have advised all schools to move to remote learning, until at least Friday 15th January. Staff have worked tirelessly to make school as safe as can be but the virus can still be transmitted in school. To protect your children our staff and yourselves, as well as limiting the strain on the NHS, St. Bartholomew's CE Primary School will be following the advice and offering remote learning to the majority of children.

Remote Learning

Remote Learning will be provided from Wednesday 6th January by your child's class teacher. This will be through the Seesaw App – you should have already received your password for this via SchoolPing. If you have not received your password, please check that you have signed the permission form on SchoolPing and then email the school office if you still cannot access Seesaw.

The Seesaw App is designed to be used on smartphones, tablets, PCs or laptops, or for children to look at the work online and then complete on paper. If you have NONE of these devices in your household, please let the school office know. It may be that you can be lent a device but please try to make alternative arrangements if you can – there is a VERY limited supply at school. Through the Seesaw app, pupils can communicate directly with staff and staff can give feedback to pupils. The feedback will be given as efficiently as is possible but please remember that staff may be covering provision in school or caring for their own children at home, making feedback time a little slower.

We do also have a large number of Free Data Sim cards from Vodafone that will be able to help those who have the technology but might not have the internet or data allowance. These cards give you 30GB data plan for 90 days and can be used in any Smart Laptop/ Smartphone. Full instructions are included but you may need to buy a dongle if you want to use in a laptop. If you wish to be considered for this, please email the school office.

Any issues with home learning, please contact your child's class teacher by email.

Critical Worker Provision

School will be continuing to provide child care for children who are vulnerable, children who have an EHCP and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and **cannot be safely cared for at home. Although the risk is reduced, there is still a higher risk of infection if your children come to school.**

However, every child who can be **safely cared for at home should be.** We ask, where possible, you also make compromises and only use the care when you have to. We would ask that parents carefully consider their own arrangements before sending their children and read the advice about the increased risks posed by children being in contact with other households at the current time.

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





Child care provision could involve daily contact with at least 20 other households- possibly nearer 30. And these are families who are out working in the local community

All places must be booked. This is not first come first served. Our Admissions criteria is prioritised as:

1. Critical Worker Children- where **both** parents are Critical Workers and both working during the school day full time.
2. Critical Worker Children - where **one** parent is a Critical Worker and **no other parent is at home or able to provide childcare.**
3. Vulnerable Children - by invite.

A letter from your employer **MAY** be required outlining your working days/hours/pattern. Critical Worker employers are able to provide this.

To clarify child care Provision is only open to children:

- whose parents are Critical Workers and working on the dates/ times that the children are in child care Provision,
- who have a social worker- by invite on specified days,
- who have an EHCP- by invite on specified days,
- who the school have offered a place to

Please wait to be told what provision your child has got before you bring them to school – the school office will contact you ASAP to let you know when your child can come to school.

Having read the information above, if you still need childcare for some of the week, you will need to complete the Childcare Request form which has also been sent with this letter or can be found here - https://www.st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk/web/january_2021/530102. You can complete the form online and return by email, or print it, complete by hand and email a photo, or just include the information requested in an email to us – however you need to get the information to us by email is fine!

The provision in school will be based in the hall – children will enter and exit through the green door. The door will be open for children from 8.45am for 10 minutes. A register will be taken as normal. Please phone in absence as you normally would if your child has been booked and is then unable to come in. Please collect children between 3.00pm and 3.10pm. We cannot currently offer Breakfast Club and Starfish will be closed whilst schools are closed. If you are a Critical Worker and need after school care, please do get in touch via the school office – it may be that with enough need, a provision can be put in place.

Currently, school lunch will be available for all children – we do not know what the menu choices will be. If you would normally receive it free, it still will be. Otherwise, please pay in the usual way. We request that if your child is attending the provision, they have a school lunch wherever possible. Of course, they can bring a packed lunch if needed.

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Children will be encouraged and supported to complete the Remote Learning provided by teachers while at school as well as participating in some other activities. Children **do** need to wear school uniform. There will be a member of SLT supervising every day. Please be respectful that, like yourselves, our staff are putting themselves and their families at risk by providing this care.

New Office Staff

In the midst of all this, we also welcome a new member of Office Staff – Mrs Wulitich. She will be working in the mornings in the front office – obviously it will take her a little while to get used to and to learn all the systems so please be patient!

Any questions about any of the above, please email the school office. Further information will be sent out this week, so please do keep checking SchoolPing.

Kind regards

Katie Blood.

Katie Blood
Headteacher

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