

KEYHAM BARTON CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
RENOWN STREET
KEYHAM
PLYMOUTH
PL2 2DE



Tel: 01752 567684
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Miss R Riley
Head Teacher

Monday 11th January, 2021

Dear School Family,

As you may have heard, the Government has further tightened their criteria after we sent out guidance last week. As the numbers keep rising, we are being asked to lockdown more tightly if we can.

At 5.30pm on Friday evening the DFE announced that:

"Parents whose work is **critical to the coronavirus** (Covid-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections (*shared on the next page*). Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, **but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.**"

We have assessed the capacity of the school as to how many children we can have in school, safely. This now means we need to re-evaluate some of the places, as if there is a parent at home, the guidance is that children are at home to contain the spread. If you are able to keep your child at home, we ask that you do so we can ensure vulnerable children and critical worker families have priority. If you now think you require a place, please fill in the form attached to this email with evidence for the days needed.

We recognise and understand the challenges of working from home and looking after your children, not to mention supporting them with home learning, as several of our staff - including me - are trying to juggle that also and we will do everything we can to support you with this. However, we also recognise that some of our **critical** worker parents cannot work from home and we are more than happy, in those circumstances, to support you with school places. We are in the process of looking at who we now allocate places to today. If you are intending to keep a place offered, you don't need to contact us. If you were allocated a place and decide to keep your child at home, please call the school to let us know. It may be that we have to ask some parents to now keep children at home if parents are at home. However we will review this weekly against the latest guidance and update you.

Plymouth CAST have introduced trust-wide prioritisation criteria to support schools in allocating places so that the school remains safe for children, staff and families which I have added on the next page. Our first port of call is to support our vulnerable children who have a place regardless. We have contacted you if this is the case.

We are in the process of allocating laptops based on the laptop agreement forms we have received from you and hope to ask some of you to pick up today. If you need further support with connectivity or data cards, please contact Miss Fenlon, at lfenlon@keyhambarton.plymouth.sch.uk, who is allocating these. If you need a laptop, please contact Mrs Allen at jallen@keyhambarton.plymouth.sch.uk and we will get these to you as soon as we can. Our DFE laptop allocation will be arriving later this week, so if you have asked in the last few days, it may be you need to wait for these to arrive, but we will let you know as soon as we can.

I also now have further guidance on Google Meets and will send this out also. Please ensure your child logs in with their actual name as if we have a false name and no video, we cannot be sure who is logged in, so will have to remove people where we are unsure for the safety of everyone.

We have been so grateful for your support as we try to steer through the changing guidance and we are on hand or on the end of the phone if you need us. We know it is difficult at the minute. I will be posting on all Google classrooms to state learning expectations for children too. If you need me to speak to your child or some back-up to get them online, let me know and I'll see what I can do to support them.

Best wishes and please keep safe,
Rachael Riley
(Headteacher)



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Priority Groups for attending school:

The government guidance now states that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.

Priority Group 1 - Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study) although we can support with devices remotely.
- care leavers
- others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

Priority Group 2 – NHS and Emergency Service Personnel - 2 critical worker parents or single parent family

Priority Group 3 – NHS and Emergency Service Personnel - 1 critical worker parent
Key education and social care workers – 2 critical worker parents or single parent family

Priority Group 4 – Key education and social care workers – 1 critical worker parent

Priority Group 5 - Food retail workers – 2 critical worker parents, or single parent family

Priority Group 6 - Food retail workers – 1 critical worker parent

Priority Group 7 - Critical worker in another area identified in the DfE guidance - 2 critical worker parents or single parent family

Priority Group 8 – Critical worker in another area identified in the DfE guidance - 1 critical worker parent

If you require a place and do not have one, you need to state which reason you would give for us allocating the place as we are having to prioritise now. For new children requiring places, a form is attached. Children of key workers should only attend school if their parents or carers cannot work from home and they have no other child care provision.

