

KEYHAM BARTON CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
RENOWN STREET
KEYHAM
PLYMOUTH
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Miss R Riley
Head Teacher

Thursday 7th January, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'd like to start by saying SCHOOLS ARE OPEN! We are not - and never have been - closed. The difference is we are providing education in a way that keeps learning going but is safe given the pandemic and rising numbers and we are working around the clock to give our children the best provision we can. The expectation is that all children are working, but remotely, as if they were in school. We have been so grateful for your support with this and we are keen to work with you so that this Lockdown experience is a much more positive one for all of us. Many of us are parents too and we know how difficult home education is. I may have been teaching 25 years and been a Headteacher, but my teenager and pre-teen still believe I know nothing! All age groups come with challenges. Coupled with that is the isolation and the fact that many of you are trying to juggle working from home as well as home-school your children. We have considered how we provide remote education, both as parents understanding your situation, and as teachers who are desperate to have all children engage. Below I have outlined our plan. I am happy for feedback on this from you as we want to work with you.

It was fabulous to see so many children accessing the Google Meet yesterday and it was lovely for the children to see and talk to each other. They were very excited to show us all their pets too as I was fortunate enough to see all the Year 4 children who joined! We miss them.

The biggest difference to this Lockdown and the first one is we are prepared. We know how vital children continuing with their education is and we are getting a sense of how big the impact of the first one was on their mental health and wellbeing. We would ask that **all children fully engage with their online learning every day** this time so they do not miss out on any more learning.

The learning children will do in school will be the same as the learning online. We are keen to make sure all children are getting the same provision. To support this, I want to outline some of the measures we have put into place to help all children access their remote learning.

Every class will have a scheduled Google Meet on a Monday and a Friday to introduce and set up their learning. The first ones took place yesterday. Timings will continue to be:

EYFS - 1:00
Year 1 - 10:00
Year 2 - 11:00
Year 3 - 9:00
Year 4 - 11:30
Year 5 - 9:30
Year 6 - 10:30

Each Google Meet session will be no more than 30 minutes. Information about learning for the week and how to access it will be shared by each teacher. On the Friday Google Meets, we will talk about, share and celebrate your learning. Parents are welcome to join with children for these too.



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We will have two teams of teachers supporting learning in school and at home. In school there will be a teacher and a TA in class with each bubble. For remote learning, there will be a teacher and a TA supporting children online. As a staff we felt it would be helpful to have some structure for those learning at home so that all children know when their learning time is and when all staff will be online to support.

If your child is in Courage Class, please send one daily upload to Mrs McCoy via Tapestry with photos of your child's learning that day. This is EYFS way of taking the register to see who has attended online school that day. If you need Mrs McCoy to add an adult to Tapestry to enable the adult with your child to access the learning more easily, please send in their email address. Google classroom for EYFS is for a safe space for the google meets. During the google meets, Mrs McCoy can walk you through IXL and numbots again. Children can access these independently once logged in.

Every day, children in Yr 1 - 6, need to log in to Google Classrooms by 9am where we will take a virtual register. We will do this with the teacher leaving a Good Morning message in the chat, and each child saying 'Hello' to indicate their attendance. The expectation and hope is that we get full school remote attendance so we can support you and your children.

Online support will be scheduled in 3 clear sessions as below:

9:00 - 10:30 - Session 1
10:30 - 11:00 - BREAK
11:00 - 12:00 - Session 2
12:00-1:00 - LUNCH
1:00-2:30 - Session 3

We would suggest that for the last hour of the day, children get out and get active or get some fresh air. You could do a Joe Wicks activity, go for a bike ride or just get outside in your garden if you have one.

We hope that in structuring our day this way, children will know when to log on and it will help them engage more. We would love to see every child who is at home learning remotely with us. We also hope it will support parents in getting them up and online so you can get on with what you need to do, if you know we are at the other end of the Internet supporting your children.

If your child needs to work outside those hours, that is also fine. All learning will be scheduled daily and all teachers are going to try to record a film of themselves introducing the learning for each slideshow - or audio talking over a slideshow step by step - so the children get to see or hear their teachers and know what they have to do. Bear with us though, this is new to us and it may take a few goes to get it right! We are trialling this from Monday 11th January in the hope we will be doing the video recordings regularly for the rest of Lockdown.

As parents, we ask that you work hard to ensure your child is engaging with the learning. We do not want them losing another term if we can help it. We understand that access is tricky, but there are a few ways we hope to support as we want to get all children online.



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On Friday 8th January, Miss Fenlon will be on call in the office all day phoning families who have not yet accessed Google Classroom to support you with access. If you have any queries or questions, you can call the school on that day and she will help. At the same time, Mrs Allen will be manning Facebook and emails, so again if you have any questions, she is there to support you with that. We want the whole school online by Monday 11th January and to join their Google Meets. We will also see what remote support we can supply throughout.

The Government has allocated us some devices to support with remote learning which we are awaiting delivery on. We hope to be able to get these out to families who have requested support as soon as they arrive.

In the short-term children can access Google Classrooms from any device that has the Internet, such as a Smartphone; some TV's offer Internet access; both Playstation and Xbox can access Google Classroom (I have added a help sheet); a laptop; or a tablet. We have 20 SIM cards from Vodafone each with 60gb of data to support remote access to give to families struggling and we have 20 laptops we are able to loan to families if they are in dire need. Understand a lot of people are requesting these so it is only if you have no other means of access and if we are unable to help you Friday. We have processed many requests already and hope to deliver soon.

Please work with us to ensure your child is not missing vital learning. IXL, TTRS, Numbots, Google Classrooms, BBC Bitesize and Oak Academy are all designed to support their learning too and all offer great support. We want to get every single child in the school online. We will be following up where children have not accessed remote learning to see what further support we can give. It is an expectation they are all on, every day.

It is also worth noting that teachers are not just working 3-5 hours a day - on any level. The whole team is working around the clock, both with the preparation of online resources - which has meant learning how to work in a completely new way - as well as the teams working on remote learning and in school. The direct time is what many people see, but there are hours of preparation that go into all of this being ready and making it work. I am so proud of the Keyham team and their efforts. We are organised and ready and here to support. All staff are working, despite their own fears and worries and managing this around their families too as we are in the same situation as many of you. We need to work while our children are at home. Our staff do this because they genuinely care for our school children and they want to be able to do their jobs and help our children have the opportunities and future they deserve. I sincerely thank them for their support and efforts. I also sincerely thank you as parents for how you have worked with us on this.

Let's get Keyham online and ensure our children are given the best opportunities we can give them! Our intent is 100% attendance on Monday and then for the rest of Lockdown. Help us get there!

Best wishes and thanks again for your support. It has meant the world.

Miss Rachael Riley
(Headteacher)

