



Atherton Sacred Heart RC Primary School

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School Provision – National Lockdown, January 2021.

Friday, 8th January, 2021.

Dear Parents,

Please find enclosed within this letter details regarding school provision during this national lockdown. As always, the guidance is liable to change at any time. We have already received many updates since the 61 page guidance was released yesterday to schools at 2.40pm.

Accessing school during this time:

The guidance to schools does state that the government and DfE do believe schools to be a safe environment. There are many control measures in place. All schools have again been asked to review their risk assessments and consider the greater transmission rate of the new strain. With this in mind, please do not send anything into school, except for your child and a packed lunch, where required.

Boris Johnson and the DfE have again reiterated that schools should only be seen as a last resort. Grandparents and support Bubbles can be created to support the children out of school. If you have requested a place and you do have alternative provision at home, then this should be used before sending your child to school.

As always, we will work with our families during this. If you have secured a place for your child in school, please do consider alternative provision, as places can still be rescinded.

Children who are ill, should not be in school. Children who display Covid-19 symptoms, should not be in school and a test should be booked and school informed of this. Those who begin to display these symptoms in school will be treated as previously shared.

Remote Learning:

Full details of the offer can be found in the '*Remote Learning Offer*' document. This has been updated in line with current guidance. It will be checked again next week, to ensure any out of date information / requirements are not still contained within the document.

All schools are required to provide remote online lessons for all pupils during this time. There have been many updates to the expectations placed on schools during the week. Yesterday, two significant changes were made to the expectations of this provision:

- Increase to 4 hours per day for those children in Key Stage 2
- Staff are to check engagement levels daily and inform parents where engagement is below expectations.

Before proceeding, the staff and I, would like to thank all of our families for all that you have done this week in regards to supporting your child's learning. We are delighted with the quality of work being submitted. Many of you still have your own work commitments to fulfil at the same time as supporting your child(ren) at home. We understand your frustrations in managing these expectations and the impact it has on your home life.

We cannot change these expectations from the DfE but we will support parents where we can. We have submitted our requests to the DfE for our allotted devices. This is the fourth time we have requested them. Hopefully, this time, we receive them and in a timely manner.

We have also, with the help of the Friends' Group, purchased an additional 15 devices to support education both in school and at home. Like many of you, we too in school have access limitations to devices. Currently, we have only 20 devices to use across school.

To alleviate pressures on parents, we have extended the deadline dates for all work to be completed. For those with limited access to devices, you should have received communication from school today informing you that we will provide you with a device once we have received them.

Those families with no devices at home have been offered a temporary place in school until we can provide the family with a device to use at home.

The work completed at home is the same as the work being completed in school.

Routines in School:

Currently, unless the guidance and numbers in school changes, all staff will be in school.

As of Monday, 11th January, 2021, Breakfast Club and After School Club until 4.45pm will again be offered. Please let the office know if you will require either of these provisions. **This offer is only for those children whose parents are critical workers.**

Breakfast Club will run from 8am until 9am each day. Usual costs apply.

School start and end times: As during the Autumn Term, please do not arrive earlier than your allotted timeslot. This is to ensure we can manage the movement within our corridors and cloakrooms in a safely and covid secure manner.

Reception, Y1 and Y2: 8.55am start with a 3.25pm finish time.

Y3 and Y5: 9.05 am start with a 3.35pm finish time.

Y4 and Y6: 9.15 am start with a 3.45pm finish time.

As per the Autumn Term routines, for those with more than one start for their children, please select one start time and its accompanying finish time for both children.

Uniform and PE kits to be worn as usual for all children in school during the week. It is advised that fresh clothes should be worn each day. Therefore, Tuesdays, will be a non-uniform day. This is because there are no planned PE sessions on this day.

As previously stated, the children will be completing the same set work in school as at home. The children will still need to complete Home Reading on Bug Club at home.

Measures previously implemented in school to help curtail the spread of the virus continue to be implemented and reviewed.

Yours sincerely,

J. M. Dermott

Mr I. M^cDermott
Head Teacher