



St. Peter's Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher Mrs N. Gomersall BA (Hons) QTS



12th January 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

Places in School – More Information

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to complete surveys, take our calls, arrange for keyworker letters from employers etc last week. This has been very much appreciated. As mentioned, in previous letters, demand is very high especially in some classes. We are trying to strike a balance between what we consider safe, staff availability and the need to maintain high quality remote learning for those children who cannot access school.

Because demand for places has been high, we have had to prioritise who we have offered school places to and we are very sorry we have to do that. This may change at any time depending on demand for places for certain classes.

Our essential measures to minimise risk include:

1. A requirement that people stay at home if they:
 - are ill with virus symptoms
 - have tested positive, even if asymptomatic
 - have been advised by NHS Test and Trace to do so
 - have household members of a positive case, even if that case is asymptomatic
 - have household members who have symptoms and are being currently tested
 - are required to self-isolate for travel-related reasons
2. Robust hand and respiratory hygiene
3. Enhanced cleaning and ventilation arrangements
4. Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
5. Formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible
 - minimise the potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable
 - keeping children in consistent groups
 - avoiding contact between groups
 - staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible

Where school staff are able to work from home, they are doing so. The office staff may at times work remotely from home. Generally, we have one teacher and one teaching assistant per year group. This means that one member of staff will be in school and one will be working at home supporting the children remotely. This will alternate so please don't assume your child will be taught by the class teacher when in school. We have additional staff that will work to meet the needs of the vulnerable and SEN children. We will also be supporting children pastorally and supporting parents with IT where needed.



Government Advice

In the face of growing case numbers and infection rates, the Government have altered their position and advice. Whilst parents, whose role is critical to the response to Covid 19 and EU transition, may request a school place, “parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can”. Lancashire authority support the identification of Key Critical Workers. St. Peter’s School governors support this letter and that the categorisation of pupils is prepared as follows:

Our priority criteria for places:

Priority	Summary	To include
A	Vulnerable Children	Children who have an Educational Health Care Plan or have a named social worker.
B	Key Critical Workers with no alternative	Both parents or the single parent: <ul style="list-style-type: none">· NHS frontline clinical staff or administrators e.g. NHS 911 whose work is critical during the pandemic· First Responders· Police offices and some civilian police staff· Firefighters· Those in NHS support services needed to help hospitals and clinics running· School/nursery staff who are attending on site provision at their own school
C	Key Critical workers with critical worker partner	One parent is a Key Critical Worker as listed above and the other parent’s work is critical to the coronavirus or EU response but the role is not in the key critical worker list
D	Critical Worker working outside home with no alternative	The work of both parents or a single parent is critical to the coronavirus and EU response and the work is outside the home
E	Critical Worker working at home with no alternative	The work of both parents or a single parent is critical to the coronavirus and EU response
F	Critical Worker working outside home	The work of one parent is critical to the coronavirus and EU response and the work is outside the home
G	Critical Worker	The work of one parent is critical to the coronavirus and EU response
X	Vulnerable at the school’s discretion	Children the school judges to be vulnerable – prioritised on an individual basis. This groups includes children where school has not been able to provide support to access on-line learning.

Parents may have considered their job had ‘key worker’ status as they were working in an essential service that is allowed to be open or because their job fits into one of the categories listed. We need plumbers to make repairs in emergencies which would be critical but just because a job is on the list of key workers doesn’t give the status, it is whether the role being performed is critical to the coronavirus response. The fact that an essential service is open such as a garden centre does not mean that work at the garden centre is critical to the coronavirus response.

Working in a supermarket, or a care home is critical to the coronavirus response but not a Key Critical Worker role as in group B and C.

We have been asked to stay at home and only leave if we have to. It is the same for children. The aim is to reduce social contacts. We know that many parents are only requesting places at school on the days when they have no alternative and this helps with capacity. However, if you have already requested a key worker place for your child but after reading this realise that you won't be able to demonstrate you as parents(s) fit into one of the categories above, please let us know and their name will be taken off the register. If you are a parent whose child would be eligible for a school place but have not requested one, it is also helpful for school to be aware of your child's status – in case of an emergency.

Parents should only be sending their child to school on the days when both parents are actively involved in this critical work away from the home and there is nobody available to care for or support their child. This new strain very clearly transfers from person to person much easier than the original strain, and whilst children do not seem to be particularly ill if they get Coronavirus, the effect this transmission could have on anyone else who comes into contact with someone who tests positive can be staggering.

This means, the more contacts anyone has with other people, then the more chance they have of spreading it and eventually infecting someone who is extremely vulnerable to the virus. I am sure that we all want to stop the spread of it as much as possible, so by keeping the numbers in school as low as possible this means there is less possibility of transmission between the children and therefore less chance of them bringing it home to you and to your family.

Of course, this also protects staff which means they can continue to provide home learning as well as be in school to provide support for the same home learning tasks in school. Children in school do not get more 'work' to do. All children, whether in school or at home will be doing the same work – we are just providing somewhere for Key Worker children to be whilst their parents do essential jobs that help to keep us all safe and well.

We want to help children, parents and the wider community in whatever way we can. But in the light of this new Government advice, please can we ask that even if we have offered your child a place, you only use it if you really have to and there is no alternative. In the light of this new advice, if you no longer wish to take up your place, then please let us know.

Notifying us of a change in need (allocated keyworker places only)

If you have already been allocated a keyworker place, please notify us of your needs for the following week by midnight on Thursday via the email address

daysneeded@stpetersheysham.lancs.ch.uk

This is the main method for telling us about your changing needs and it is checked each day during work hours.

Looking Forward – Showbie

The main way that most children are connected to school at the moment is via Showbie. Please do your best to help your child access it. We are constantly reviewing how we are using this, so over the coming days, we may well refine what we are providing to ensure that it is effective and manageable for children, parents and staff.

Thank you for your continued support as always at this hard time. Keep safe everyone.

Yours sincerely,



Nicola Gomersall

Headteacher