



The Priory Church of England Primary School

Inspiring all to learn, flourish and achieve

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Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Onsite Provision for Key Worker and Vulnerable Children During Spring

With the support of our amazing staff team, I am pleased to confirm that our onsite provision for key worker and vulnerable children will be able to open tomorrow, Thursday 7th January.

If your child has been allocated a place you should have received separate confirmation by email. We will also telephone you in the next few days to clarify your requirements for the coming week. Please only come in on the days that you really need childcare. If Thursday is one of your days, then we are ready for your child to come tomorrow.

Even though we have been able to provide a place for about a quarter of our children, I am keenly aware that we have not managed to accommodate all the requests. It has been a balance between ensuring the school is safe and having sufficient numbers of staff to supervise the children. **This means, if you have not received a separate email you have been unsuccessful in this first allocation.**

I am very sorry to disappoint so many of you. If you face difficulties in the weeks ahead e.g. your circumstances change or you simply reach a crisis point – please let the school know and we will do everything we can to help you.

Arranging key worker provision for so many children means that we are stretched as a staff team. As I am sure you are aware from your own places of work, staff need to self-isolate, shield and looked after their own children – all of which reduces capacity. The reality is that I am already using supply cover to open tomorrow and should further members of staff be unavailable for work I will need to start closing pods. In that sense the sustainability of the current situation feels much more serious than back in March.

In addition, I have found it necessary to include teachers on the key worker rota much more than I had anticipated. This means that on certain days teachers will not be able to provide the same level of support on Google Classroom as they can the rest of the week.

I am sure we will resolve these challenges and make this work for both the children in school and the children at home. **Information regarding the initial onsite provision can be found at the end of this letter.**



Free School Dinners

We are working with BCP Council to sort out free school meals for those eligible children who are not in school. Our plan is to provide vouchers like we did over Christmas but this will take a few days to sort out.

The dread of home schooling *again*

On another matter, it has come to my attention that, for some, today brought back lots of unpleasant memories of home schooling – the guilt, the arguments, the confusion all came flooding back! Home Schooling is hard and I think everyone recognises that now.

We are required to provide a very full educational offer but we also understand that this could be overwhelming for some of you. Please remember how well your child bounced back in September and I am sure that will happen again. I would encourage you, like last time, to adjust the load your child does according to how you are all managing that day. If things are really hard at home, just a couple of IXL objectives, a little bit of writing (don't neglect the pen and paper!) and a quarter of an hour reading will be incredibly beneficial.

Finally, can I just take this opportunity to thank all of you who responded to my earlier email. To read how many of you are supporting our community in your critical worker roles was humbling and I know how important it is that we provide this childcare cover for you. It really does feel as though we are all in this together. Following another day of frightening COVID figures, we really do need to keep looking after one another.

Kind Regards,

Mr P Ruffle
Headteacher

Key Worker and Vulnerable Worker Arrangements (Jan – Feb 2021)

Question	Information
What are the opening hours?	Arrival 8.55am side gate (hand sanitise as usual) Register 9am Collection 2.55pm side gate Children released 3pm
What do we wear?	School Uniform Extra layers – school is cold because we have lots of windows open Trainers
What can we bring?	Water bottle Raincoat Headphones (please) <i>All other belongings should not be brought into school e.g. reading book, pencil case</i> On your child's first day, please bring your Maths No Problem book back to school!

Where will I be?	<p>You will be based in one of our classrooms with a maximum of 14 other children and usually 2 supervising adults.</p> <p>Each pod will be allocated their own toilet and sink.</p>
Who will be supervising me?	<p>The adults who supervise you will not mix with any other group, unless that is a senior teacher (Mr Ruffle and Mrs Kelly) or a lunchtime supervisor outside.</p> <p>It will probably be one of our fantastic teaching assistants as the teachers are providing remote learning.</p>
What will I do?	<p>You will be taking part in the remote learning as though you were at home, like everybody else in your class.</p> <p>Most of you will be using a school chrome book to access your learning. Younger children will do 'let's learn' time as normal and choose from a range of activity stations.</p> <p>The afternoon work will be a mix of Art, sport and project work.</p> <p>We aim to finish each day with a story and act of worship.</p>
Are the rules different?	<p>No – Ready, Respectful and Safe are still our rules</p> <p>We will need to keep one another safe so there will be lots of handwashing!</p> <p>If you are not keeping others safe, your place will be immediately withdrawn.</p>
What about Medical and First Aid needs?	<p>Please do not come to school if you are feeling unwell.</p> <p>Once you tell an adult in school you are feeling poorly, you will get someone from home to collect you as soon as we can.</p> <p>A first aider and paediatric first aider will be onsite at all times</p>
What happens at lunchtime?	<p>You will eat in your pods, not in the hall.</p> <p>We are providing hot school lunches (we ordered a lot of food in for the start of term) on the same menu as previously advised.</p> <p>We would encourage you to have a hot school dinner (especially if you are in R,1 and 2 or a fsm). You can order up to 9pm tonight (or alternatively tell us tomorrow by 9am).</p>
Can I get wraparound care?	<p>Yes – Lynn from Poppets is happy to take bookings during this period but only for critical workers and vulnerable children. Please make arrangements with Lynn.</p>

Can I see the risk assessment?	The risk assessment remains the one for whole school opening with the notable change that the numbers of children (i.e. the viral load in each room) is significantly reduced and no adults are allocated to more than 1 pod.
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