



Barrow CEVC Primary School

Inspire, Create, Discover, Together

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Headteacher: Mrs H Ashe BA (Hons)



5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Important Update on Key Worker Childcare Provision in School

The school is providing *limited* childcare provision for those identified as critical key workers during the current school closure period. In line with government guidance, the key worker criteria will be applied where there is only one key worker within the family.

Please be assured that we do understand the stresses and strains on working parents at this time. A large number of families though have registered with us and demand for places is currently very high. Whilst we will try hard *not* to restrict the number of children that the school can accommodate at this time, we may have to make decisions to limit places if demand exceeds our available staffing ratios and compromises the school's ability to meet the requirements of our risk assessment and government guidelines.

We would, therefore, ask that all parents who are registered as key workers are mindful of the needs of a much bigger number of families requiring support than was the case in March. Please only book places if you absolutely need to.

Where one parent is able to be at home, works part time or is in a non-key worker post then your children should remain at home as often as possible. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

I would also like to direct you to the very latest that Government guidance regarding current national lockdown rules. This allows for families to receive support through childcare bubbles. Further information on this can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Please be clear that we are operating a safe **childcare service** in school for those who need it most from Tuesday, 5th January. This will be staffed by the school's Teaching Assistants and other support staff. I have directed our excellent teachers to concentrate their efforts fully on providing high quality and engaging remote learning for *all* children so that no-one is disadvantaged by remaining at home during this difficult time. This means that there is currently no face to face teaching in school. Whilst we will support access to remote learning in school as best we can during the day, this cannot be guaranteed. Our limited staffing capacity cannot support the individual learning needs of the high number of children accessing the childcare service today.

Bookings are now open for the next two weeks via the Events facility on ParentMail. Please note the following:

- Book the sessions you require, at least 24 hours advance wherever possible.
- Every day of provision you require needs to be booked separately. Please ensure that you **confirm** your attendance when booking.
- Dates will be available initially in 2 weekly blocks.
- If you no longer require any provision you have booked, please cancel using the ParentMail facility or email the office if the booking window has closed.

Whilst we are committed as a school to providing this special service for our parents who are most in need, please be reminded once again that the measure to close schools was taken to reduce the spread of this new, highly transmissible strain of Covid-19; local infection rates across this area are currently extremely and worryingly high. *I would, therefore, appeal to all families to be fully considerate to both one another, and the school staff who are working hard to support you, during these strange and difficult times.*

Kind regards

Helen Ashe
Headteacher