



BILLINGE CHAPEL END

— SCHOOL & NURSERY —

Carr Mill Road, Billinge, Wigan, WN5 7TX
Telephone: 01744 678230 Email: chapelend@sthelens.org.uk
Date: 13/3/22
Headteacher: Mr C. Hewitt



Year 4 and Year 6 remote blended learning

Dear Parents/Carers,

Despite our continuation with bubble structures and COVID prevention measures in school we have unfortunately experienced outbreaks of both chickenpox and COVID 19 across the school. Over the weekend, we have had 5 members of teaching staff confirm that they are unable to attend work due to COVID 19 related issues. As a result of this, I have completed a risk assessment and I have been in contact with the Local Authority and our Governing Board.

Unfortunately, the outcome of these assessments is that Year 4 and Year 6 will move to remote/blended learning at home on Monday 14th March - Wednesday 16th March with children returning to school on Thursday 17th March.

School will be open to children who are categorised by the Department of Education as 'vulnerable' or to children of parents who are critical workers.

Vulnerable children are categorised as children who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance. This might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services or who have previously received support from children's social care services (as identified by local authorities)
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - care leavers
 - children and young people in a family circumstance presenting challenges for them, such as drug and alcohol misuse, parental offending, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

I do my best!





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Critical workers are categorised by the Department of Education as:

Health and social care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach

Key public services

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

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Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of:

- the COVID-19 response
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits including in government agencies and arms length bodies**

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery

as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

Public safety and national security

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff

those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

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Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors

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It is advised that children who are categorised as vulnerable attend school every day. Children of critical workers should stay at home if childcare can be arranged. School has ten tablets that can be loaned to families who have no digital devices at home. These can be loaned out through the school office on request.

Any children in Years 4 and 6 who qualify to receive free school meals will have a packed lunch prepared for them and these can be collected from the school foyer from 11am onwards.

Children who are attending school out of year groups 4 and 6, should enter the school via the school office where they will be registered into the building. During the day, they will be supervised by 2 learning assistants as they complete the online activities set by the class teacher.

I must stress that these actions are an absolute last resort for the school and we understand the impact that this may have on families working lives. Following our analysis, this action was required to keep our children as safe as possible and to give them access to their own class teacher.

I would like to thank families for their understanding and flexibility in these extenuating circumstances.

Yours sincerely

Mr Hewitt

Mr Hewitt
Headteacher

I do my best!

