



## St Bridget's (C of E) Primary School

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Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents

Following on from previous correspondence we are delighted to say we will be re-opening to all children on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 from 8.50am or earlier if you use Breakfast Club. I have compiled information below to help you understand what school will be like when we return so you can prepare your child and have an insight yourselves into the measures we are taking to reduce the risk in schools to keep everyone safe.

### **Please follow the rules at home**

As always, I cannot promise that schools are entirely safe as infection rates are still high and many lockdown procedures are still in place. So it is vital that you help us keep your children, staff and yourselves safe by following these measures outside of school. Please do not think it is ok to have playdates, sleep overs or share childcare with people not in your family bubbles just because they are mixing in school. You as adults are not mixing with other people's children, and in school only certain children are mixing in a controlled environment- by doing this you are putting everyone at more risk.

### **Which bubble will my child be in?**

We will be running our usual classes as bubbles and children will stay in these bubbles as much as feasibly possible to avoid cross contamination between groups.

Class 1 (Nursery & Reception)  
and

Nursery will be a bubble with Mrs Rutter in the Nursery classroom

Class 2 (Year 1 and 2)

Reception will be a bubble with Mrs Taylor

Class 3 (Year 3 & 4)

will be with Mr Spencer in his usual classroom

Class 4 (Year 5 & 6)

will be with Mrs Steele and Mrs Sidwell in their usual classroom  
will be classed as one bubble but due to larger numbers and a smaller classroom they will be taught in their own room and the library throughout the week. Their teachers will be Mrs Middleton, Mrs Willan and Mrs Hemingway



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### **What time will my child start/finish school?**

All children will start and finish school at the usual times, arrive from 8.50am in the morning and finish at 3pm for Infants and 3.15pm for Juniors. We won't be operating any further staggered start/finish times than we normally do as we feel this is not helpful for working parents.

### **Where will I collect/drop off my child?**

**All adults must wear masks during drop off and collection (unless you are exempt)- we know this is outdoors but there is very little space around the school to social distance successfully and we appreciated everyone abiding to this before Christmas.**

In order to avoid congested areas, and to help parents maintain a safe distance from each other, children will enter/exit school from different doors. Obviously depending on the age of your child we would also ask if you could drop them either at the gate, or further up the road or even walk to school by themselves if possible. You are welcome to come into the playground too so long as you spread yourselves out. We appreciate however for a few days your child may also feel a little wobbly about coming back to school or even starting for the first time and may like you to be with them to the door. If you do accompany your child to the door, please try where possible to have just one adult. We would also appreciate it if you avoid standing talking at the school gates and out on the pavement in order to help people social distance from each other too.

Nursery –	Nursery door
Reception	Class 1's classroom door (small play area)
Class 2	Steps to their classroom on the big playground
Class 3	Steps to their classroom on the big playground
Class 4	Entrance door next to Nursery(near the toilets) in the morning and main entrance at home time

### **Do children need to stay in bubbles?**

It is important that children and staff stay within their bubbles as much as possible. This is to minimise the amount of contacts they have in school should someone test positive. It also reduces the risk of cross contamination as they will be limited as to what parts of the school building and equipment they use. There will be no whole school events or assemblies and collective worship will take place with their own bubble. This means should a child or staff member in one bubble test positive for Covid-19 only the staff and children of that bubble will need to self isolate, the rest of school can continue as normal.

### **How will children be kept separate at playtime and lunch times?**

Children will not be kept separate within their bubbles/classes but will be kept separate from other children at playtimes except for Class 1 and Class 2 where there are less children and will play on the same playground. During wet playtimes children will stay in their own bubbles but again Class 1 and Class 2 will watch a DVD seated separately from each other. Staggered lunch times will ensure bubbles can be spaced out from each other in the hall.

### **Will my child's classroom look different to before Christmas?**

There are no changes to the new layouts we had in our classrooms last term. Early Years and infants classrooms have exactly the same lay out as they always do as it is impossible for them to social distance and they don't spend a long time sitting at any one activity.

Junior classrooms have their tables in rows facing the front and are encouraged to social distance from adults where possible.



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All equipment is cleaned at the end of the day and during the day where appropriate or if swapping between bubbles. If it can't be cleaned it is quarantined.

### **Will there be wrap around care? (Breakfast Club, Acorns and After School Club)?**

Once again, we recognise the importance of these clubs for working parents and will continue to provide these services to help you. As always this will be purely optional to families however it does mean that children will be mixing with different children outside of their class bubble which will increase the chances of your child having to self isolate. The clubs will follow school's procedures for hygiene and regular cleaning, they will also be encouraged to play outside as much as feasibly possible.

### **Will parents be allowed in school?**

Unfortunately, until advised otherwise by government, parents will not be allowed into school. However, should you need to speak to a member of staff we will be more than happy to speak on the phone or make an appointment out of school hours if feasible. Staff will also greet your child at the gates each morning so any messages can be passed on to your child's teacher if it does not require a meeting. For the time being there will be no school events requiring parents to attend, but hopefully as time goes on we will be able to reintroduce these.

### **Will my child be able to bring a bag and other items to school?**

Your child can bring minimal items to school, this could be a school bag, water bottle, PE kit etc. Children in Class 4 are allowed to bring a pencil case but they will not be allowed to share each other's stationary. Any suntan creams, water bottles etc need to be clearly marked with your child's name.

### **Will my child be allowed a school dinner?**

School lunches can be bought from school as normal at £2 per day for Juniors and £1.50 for Nursery. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to receive Universal Free Schools Meals. If you think your child may be entitled to free meals and uniform help regardless of their year group please contact [www.cumbria.gov.uk/doitonline/applyforit.asp](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/doitonline/applyforit.asp) where they will advise you as to whether you are eligible or not. However if you do not wish for your child to have a school meal they are welcome to bring a packed lunch. Please make sure this is a healthy meal and **does not contain nuts or peanuts** due to children with allergies in school. A reminder - if you wish your child to start/stop having school dinners a fortnight's notice is required please due to ordering of food items.

### **Will my child need to wash their hands regularly and have access to hand gel?**

Children will be encouraged to wash their hands on entry to and leaving school, as well as regularly throughout the day. They will be encouraged to sneeze/cough into their elbow or preferably a tissue then dispose of it appropriately (catch it, bin it, kill it).

### **Will my child need to wear uniform? Will they need extra clothing?**

Your child will need to wear school uniform every day, however on PE days you will need to send your child to school wearing their school PE Kit as they are not allowed to change clothing in school (unless of course it is a toilet accident), it may also be advisable to wear leggings or jogging bottoms if the weather is cold. Please make sure they have an extra jumper in school too as windows will be open for ventilation at all times.

### **Will we still be allowed Reading Books?**

Reading books will still be sent home so you can read with your children, although home schooling will have ended (thank goodness), reading with your children at home is still an essential part of their everyday



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schooling and needs to continue. Reading books will be quarantined once they are returned to school before re-use.

### **Will my child be expected to wear a face covering?**

It is not necessary for children to wear a face covering in school. If you wish your child to wear a face mask on the way to and from school, you will need to ensure it either is disposed of before they enter the building or if reusable they will need to place their mask in a sealable bag and keep it in their school bag until home time.

**Since January all staff have been wearing face coverings as much as is feasibly possible during a school day, we will be continuing this practice until at least Easter when it will be reviewed again.**

### **What cleaning arrangements will there be in school to keep my child safe?**

Throughout the day, high contact areas in classrooms, equipment and toilets will be cleaned regularly. All classrooms will have antibacterial spray, hand gel and antibacterial hand wash. Equipment will not be shared between bubbles unless it has been cleaned or quarantined for 72 hours. School will be cleaned each night ready for re-opening the following day.

### **Will Lateral flow Tests be used?**

Currently all staff have the option of using Lateral Flow Tests twice a week to detect positive Covid results. So far this system has been working well and will be continued when school re-opens next week. Children will not be given Lateral Flow Tests in Primary Schools, however on the 1<sup>st</sup> March government announced that all families with primary aged children can pick up Lateral Flow Testing kits from their local testing centres should they wish to use them too. Unlike Secondary schools we do not have kits available to families.

If a staff member tests positive, close contacts will be identified and you will receive an email/phone call from school to inform you, should your child need to self isolate. The phone call will show as an unknown number so please make sure you answer your phone or check your email.

### **What happens if my child or family member displays Covid Symptoms?**

You must inform the school immediately and we can help you get tested, you will also need to inform the school of the result of the test as soon as possible. The first person in your household to display symptoms of Covid-19 needs to self isolate for 10 days from when their symptoms first started or when they had a test if no symptoms and all other members of the household need to self isolate for 10 days from the test date whether they have symptoms or not.

### **What happens if a child/ staff member in my child's class displays Covid symptoms?**

If someone in a child or staff member's bubble/class is showing Covid-19 symptoms everyone in that support bubble should stay home for 10 days. If the child/staff member or a member of their support bubble is contacted as part of the NHS Test and Trace programme, only the individual contacted should stay at home. However, if the individual becomes symptomatic, everyone in the support bubble should then isolate.

### **If my child's class is self isolating do I need to keep my other children at home too?**

Unless there is a whole school lock down **only** your child whose class is self isolating needs to stay at home (unless your own child is presenting symptoms themselves or has tested positive).

However this may still apply to your other children if they have been playing with the positive child at home, at a club outside of school or wrap around care club in school, depending on how much direct contact they have had and for how long.



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### **Will my child receive home schooling if they are absent from school?**

As per county guidance, home schooling will only be provided if your child:

- is self isolating through a family member having Covid
- is self isolating as a result of a class bubble going off
- has a doctors/specialist letter to say they need to shield
- or during a local or national lock down.

Home schooling will **not** be provided if :

- you choose to keep your child off school for any reason
- your child is too unwell to complete work
- or your child or family member are waiting for test results.

### **Will there be support for my child if they are finding it hard to return to school?**

If your child has struggled during lock down for any reason, suffered bereavement in the family and/or are anxious about coming back to school please let us know and we will look to see how together we can help them. There are lots of good resources either for home/school to put their minds at ease and support them.

### **What changes do I need to inform school about since lock down?**

Your child may not have been in school for a long time and their needs or contact details may have changed. Please let us know changes to any of the following or anything else you think we need to know:

- Change of contact details eg, address, telephone/mobile number, email address
- Medical needs eg. Asthma, Diabetes, Allergies etc
- Dietary needs

**Please also make sure your child has ‘in date’ inhalers/epi pens etc in school or in their bag to give to their teacher.**

### **Risk Assessments**

We are constantly reviewing our Risk Assessments in line with county/government guidelines and our own practice and there will be times we need to adapt things as we go along throughout the rest of the year. We will inform you of any changes as they occur.

Finally I am aware I may not have covered everything in this letter and you may have other concerns or questions. Please do not hesitate to email myself or your class teacher and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our children back to school and having a full school again and we hope in time to operate as we have done before with whole school interaction and welcoming you as parents back into our building too.

Yours sincerely

*LJ Hemingway*

Mrs L J Hemingway  
Headteacher



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