



St Bridget's (C of E) Primary School

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Friday 21st July 2020

Dear Parents

As we approach the final week of the school holidays I am sure you are all starting to think about school and what it will be like from September onwards. Hopefully this letter will give you some reassurance and answer some of your questions you may have.

We are delighted to say we are planning to re-open as near to normal as possible. School will open to **all** pupils on Wednesday 2nd of September 2020 at 8.50am.

What class will my child be in and will they be in bubbles?

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)	will be a bubble with Mrs Rutter in the Nursery classroom and Reception will be a bubble with Mrs Taylor
Class 2 (Year 1 and 2)	will be with Mr Spencer in his usual classroom
Class 3 (Year 3 & 4)	will be with Mrs Steele and Mrs Sidwell in their usual classroom
Class 4 (Year 5 & 6)	will be classed as one bubble but due to larger numbers and a smaller classroom they will be taught as separate year groups for the morning sessions in the classroom and the library with Mrs Middleton and Mrs Willan for the Autumn term.

What time will my child start/finish school?

All children will start and finish school at the usual times, arrive at 8.50am in the morning and finish at 3pm for Infants and 3.15pm for Juniors. We do not want to operate staggered start/finish times as we feel this is not helpful for working parents.

Where will I collect/drop off my child?

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. We will operate in a similar fashion to the week before school closed, as with your help this seemed to work well. 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. We appreciate however for a few days your child may also feel a little wobbly about coming back to school and may like you to be with them to the door. If you do accompany your child



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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 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)

Why 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 display symptoms. It also reduces the risk of cross contamination and 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 by having either staggered playtimes/lunch times or will have designated areas of the playground.

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

We recognise the importance of these clubs for working parents and really want to be able to continue these services to help you. This service as always will be purely optional to families as it does mean that children will be mixing with different children outside of their school bubble and this may 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 where they will advise you as to whether you are eligible or not.



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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. A reminder - if you wish your child to go 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 into their elbow or a tissue then dispose of it appropriately (catch it, bin it, kill it).

Will my child need to wear PPE?

It is not necessary for children to wear PPE 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.

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.

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 and all other members of the household need to self isolate for 14 days whether they have symptoms or not. The 14 day period starts from the day the first person became ill, and if any other members start showing symptoms they must self isolate for 10 days from when their symptoms started.

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, or otherwise self-isolating, everyone in that support bubble should stay home. If the child/staff member or a member of their support bubble is contacted as part of the NHS Test and Trace programme, the individual contacted should stay at home. 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 together 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.

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



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- 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.

What will happen for home schooling should there be a bubble/whole school or local lock down?

We are currently reviewing a new Home Schooling system should we need to put this into operation again for any length of time for any child or class. We will be sending out more information about this in due course and as we plan to use it for homework purposes on our return to make sure it is working and you are all signed up correctly.

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.

Risk Assessments

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

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.

Unfortunately my mum is extremely ill at the moment so I am trying to get as much information out to you as possible in case I am not going to be able to be in school. If I am at the hospital or on leave on our return to school, all my staff are well briefed and more than capable of looking after you and your children.

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.

Please enjoy what is left of the school holidays and your time together as a family.

Yours sincerely

LJ Hemingway

Mrs L J Hemingway
Headteacher



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