



Brighstone C.E Aided Primary School

Acting Headteacher – Mrs R. Lennon

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Friday 15th May 2020

Dear parents/carers,

Re: update on possible reopening of schools

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we waited for further information on reopening schools – the government has now published more guidance, and we summarise below what we know so far.

To recap, **if** the government thinks it is safe, schools will reopen from 1 June to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils.

The safety of pupils, staff and families remain paramount, and is the primary concern in any planning. Therefore, it may not be possible to welcome back all the above year groups in the way the Prime Minister described (it must be noted that year groups may not have their usual teacher). However, we are in the process of creating detailed plans and risk assessments to make sure we can safely welcome these year groups back, when it is safe for us to start the phased reopening of the school. Precautions we will be taking include:

- Limiting group sizes (bubbles) to no more than 15 children
- Groups of children and their key staff remaining with their ‘bubble’ all day every day, with no mixing
- Staggering break times and lunch times to ensure bubbles remain separate and social distancing measures can be adhered to, to protect children and staff
- Possibly staggering drop-off and collection times with a one-way system for dropping off and collecting, with strict routines to ensure that not too many people are on the playground at the same time, meaning social distancing measures can be adhered to
- Increased cleaning of furniture and equipment throughout the day and at the end of each day
- Keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home
- Regular washing of hands; coughing into sleeves; promoting ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’
- Allocating own seats/tables and resources/equipment for each child, with no shared equipment

Whilst the government recognise that social distancing in schools will be adhered to as much as possible, this isn’t always possible with young children, and with children and staff remaining in their small ‘bubbles’, social distancing of 2m won’t always be necessary. The government have also stated that the use of PPE won’t be necessary in schools, except where individual care is needed for someone who becomes ill. However, as a school we are giving you the option if you would like your children to use it.

Mrs Jones, Family Liaison Officer (FLO), will call the parents of children in R, Y1 and Y6 on Monday to find out if you are considering bringing your child back to school – this will help us know how many children to expect, which will enable us to make provisions, such as organising the ‘bubbles’ and sorting out the layout of the rooms. However, I want to reassure you again that we won’t be pressuring parents to send their children to school – you know what’s best for your child’s health and wellbeing. We will provide you with more details on the arrangements for reopening nearer the time, so you can make the appropriate decision. Parents will not be fined for not sending their children to school.

Please be reminded that in the meantime, the school is still open **only** for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. Until we are told it is safe to do so, we are unable to provide places for other children.

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to [government guidance](#) for further details of these groups.

We are aware that this may be a scary time for children, and there will be a big focus on wellbeing and mental health, as well as redeveloping social skills, when they return. At the same time, the learning that will take place will be based on the activities that are in the home learning packs.

For pupils at home, we will continue to support you and your child with home learning, and food parcels for those who are eligible.

It is a very unsettling time for us all, but rest assured that we're going to be doing everything we can to make sure we're ready to receive these year groups if it's safe for our school to reopen in the coming weeks. If you have any concerns or worries, please don't hesitate to contact the school. This can be done by emailing the school via safeguarding@brighstoneprimary.org.uk, calling the school on 740285 or texting via the Teachers 2 Parents number.

We will be writing to you again with further information next week.

Best wishes,

Mrs Rebecca Lennon
Acting Headteacher

Mrs Diana Nicholson
Chair of Governors