



Brighstone C.E Aided Primary School

Acting Headteacher – Mrs R. Lennon

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Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear parents/carers,

Re: second update on the possible reopening of schools

Thank you to you all for your understanding while we make preparations and create detailed risk assessments ready to welcome back children in Reception, Y1 and Y6 when schools potentially reopen. The government is expected to make a decision following the latest science updates on **Thursday 28th May**.

Within this letter is information regarding our arrangements for those children who may be coming back to school following this decision. As stated in the previous letter, the safety of pupils, staff and families remains paramount, and is the primary concern in any planning. All risk assessments and plans will be regularly reviewed and amended where necessary, depending on updates and circumstances, so we ask for your understanding in any instances where plans change.

Mrs Jones spoke to all the parents in Reception, Y1 and Y6 at the beginning of the week. If some of you decide to change your mind about your decision, please let us know. To reiterate, parents will not be fined for not sending their children to school.

Drop-off and collection arrangements

To avoid too many people on the school playground at the same time, which will enable social distancing measures to be maintained to avoid any potential transmission of the virus into school, these are the plans that will be put into place:

Drop-off:

- The gates will open at 8.15am;
- There will be a one-way system in place. Parents and children **enter via the back gate from Warnes Lane car park**, and line up with 2 metres spacing along the path leading into the playground – please ensure that your child/ren remain with you in the line;
- A member of staff will direct you to your classrooms, rather than waiting on the playground. We ask that children remain with their parents and don't run around on the playground;
- Children enter their classrooms and go immediately to wash their hands;
- **Parents exit the playground via the front gate.**

Collection:

- The gates will open at 2.40pm;
- Parents will **enter via the back gate from Warnes Lane car park** and line up with 2 metres spacing along the path leading to the playground;
- A member of staff will direct you to your classrooms, where your child will be waiting;
- Once your child is with you, please **exit the playground via the front gate.**

We politely ask that only one member of the household accompanies their child/ren, with no other siblings to be present where possible (although we understand that this may not always be possible) – this is to limit the number of people coming onto the school site. We also politely ask that parents do not remain on the school site once your child has been dropped off and collected, and that social distancing is maintained at all times.

It is mandatory for schools to provide Planning, Preparation and Assessment time (PPA), which is usually covered by Mr Goldsmith. However, because adults cannot mix between bubbles, this will not be possible. Therefore, **school will finish at 1pm each Friday** for the time being, to enable teachers to have PPA time so they can plan and prepare lessons and resources for those children in school, as well as for those children at home.

Protective measures in school

While we will be adhering to social distancing measures as much as possible, the government understands that it is not always possible for young children to maintain social distancing measures; therefore, stringent hygiene is of the utmost importance. Here are the main protective measures that will be in place in school:

- Children will wash their hands on arrival and regularly throughout the day – children will be taught the correct way to do this;
- Children will be in small groups (bubbles) of no more than 15 children;
- These groups of children and their key staff will remain with their ‘bubble’ all day every day, with no mixing;
- Play times and lunch times will be staggered to ensure bubbles remain separate and social distancing measures can be adhered to, to protect children and staff;
- Each bubble will have their own play equipment, which will be washed each day;
- Increased cleaning of furniture and equipment throughout the day and at the end of each day;
- Children will be taught to cough into sleeves/elbows, and we will promote ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’;
- Children will be allocated their own seats/tables and resources/equipment, with no shared equipment;
- New rules and routines will be drawn up and shared with children.

The government states that *‘wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings, as protective measures will be in place ensuring children and staff only will with a small consistent group.’* However, it is parental choice if you or your child wishes to wear a face covering; please ensure that they are used and disposed of correctly, according to guidelines; see the link for further information:

<https://www.healthline.com/health/how-to-wear-a-face-mask#what-not-to-do>

What we ask of you

There are certain measures that we ask you to follow that will help us to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus:

- Children will be expected to wear a clean set of clothes each day; therefore, no uniform will be required at the moment (this also helps in those instances where your children may have outgrown items of their uniform!);
- We ask that children don’t bring in any items from home, including toys or pencil cases;
- Children can still bring in their own packed lunch boxes, which will remain their responsibility;
- Children need to bring in their own reusable water bottle every day, to avoid using school cups;
- Please wash hands before leaving home;
- Maintain social distancing measures when out and about;
- Some of you have downloaded the NHS contact tracing app, and as many people as possible are encouraged to do this;
- Encourage your child/ren to not touch their face, and to promote ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’.

Symptoms and testing

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you’ve noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.

When settings open to the wider cohort of children, all these children in Rec, Y1 and Y6, as well as the children of key workers and vulnerable children who are currently attending, and members of their households, will have access to testing if you display symptoms of coronavirus. This will enable your child to return to education, and you to return to work, if the test proves to be negative. To access testing, you can use the 111 online coronavirus service if your child is 5 or over, or call 03333 218865. Please call 111 if your child is aged under 5 and choose the relevant option when prompted. Do not go to places like a GP surgery, hospital or pharmacy. See the following link for more information:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

The following procedures will be in place (however, these may be subject to change according to any updated guidance):

- If a child develops symptoms whilst in school, we will isolate them (while also looking after them and reassuring them) and inform you so you can collect them straightaway;
- If your child or any member of your household develops any of the symptoms of coronavirus, we ask you to do the following:
 - Keep your child at home, and remain at home yourselves;
 - Inform the school – we will then inform other parents that someone has symptoms of coronavirus;
 - Book a test at the Medina Covid Test site by using the online 111 coronavirus service (<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>) or by calling 03333 218865;
 - Inform the school as soon as you have the results back so we can inform other parents and put in place the necessary measures:

If the test is negative:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your child can return to school and you can return to work.
If the test is positive:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You and all members of the household need to self-isolate according to government advice: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection • The rest of your child’s group (bubble) will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that bubble do not need to self-isolate unless they also develop symptoms. Please see the attached guidance for parents and carers for more information; • Update your NHS app where necessary.

Information from the previous letter

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.

Further information

Please see the Frequently Asked Questions on the reverse of this letter.

There are also two attachments with more information:

- Opening schools and educational setting to more pupils from 1st June: guidance for parents and carers
- Overview of scientific advice and information on coronavirus COVID 19

As soon as the government have conveyed their decision on Thursday 28th May, we will be in touch.

If you have any questions, 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.

Best wishes,

Mrs Rebecca Lennon
Acting Headteacher

Mrs Diana Nicholson
Chair of Governors

Frequently Asked Questions

Here are answers to the questions that some of you have asked.

Will my child have their usual teacher?

Here are the proposed teachers/LSAs for the different bubbles, but this may change according to circumstances. We will keep you informed of any changes. The key worker children and vulnerable children in Reception, Y1 and Y6 will return to their usual year groups.

- Reception: Mrs Aram, Mrs Brear and Mrs Littler
- Year 1: Mrs Rogers, Mrs Boyd and Miss Moore
- Year 6: Mr Wilson, Mrs Eggleton and Mr Fox
- Key worker and vulnerable children (not in Rec, Y1 and Y6): Mrs Denness/Mrs Sharp, Mr Goldsmith, Miss Bacon, Mrs Dunn and Mrs Snow

What education will my child be accessing while in school?

For the next few weeks, your child will be accessing the same or similar learning to that in the home learning packs. This will include:

- Wellbeing activities
- English – reading and writing linked to a book or experience
- RWI phonics – speed sound lesson (Rec and Y1)
- Maths – White Rose Maths, and other lessons linked to a particular aspect of Maths, including times tables, calculations, shape, space and measure, fractions, and so on
- Spellings – Common Exception Words
- PE – with their key adults (PE kit won't be required, but please bring trainers or plimsolls)
- Topic – linked to the topic webs in the home learning packs
- Gardening – in our school garden

We will also be ascertaining what support children need to help them embed previous learning or to close any gaps in their learning.

Will my child be bringing reading books home?

Official guidance states that schools should *'limit the number of shared resources that are taken home by staff and pupils and limit the exchange of such resources.'*

Therefore, we may provide some books for you to borrow, but when they are brought back, they will be kept in a separate box for a few days to avoid any indirect transmission of the virus. We will let you know further details once school reopens for these year groups. In the meantime, there are free books that you can take home and keep – these are in boxes by the front entrance to the school.

Can I change my mind about bringing my child to school?

We understand that, in these uncertain times and with frequently updated advice from the government, you may feel unsure about bringing your child back to school. However, whatever decision you make, be reassured that you are welcome to change your mind at any time – just inform the school.

Will my child in Reception or Year 1 receive the free fruit and vegetables as a mid-morning snack?

These deliveries stopped when schools closed for all children except those who were eligible to attend, and unfortunately will not continue for the remainder of the summer term. Please provide a piece of fruit for a mid-morning snack.