



Brighstone C.E Aided Primary School

Acting Headteacher – Mrs R. Lennon

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Friday 26th June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Re: updates, including the further opening up of schools to other year groups

We would like to thank you for your understanding and support for the partial reopening of schools from 1st June. It is still going smoothly, the children are enjoying their time back in school, and we are enjoying seeing them again!

It is also great to see that more children are joining us in the eligible year groups. To provide continuity and consistency for your child, and to help them to access the learning journeys that are taking place, we now ask that if your child will be accessing school provision for the remainder of the summer term, that they do so every day on a full-time basis, rather than part-time. This means that they won't miss any of their learning.

I would like to provide some updates following the announcement from the Prime Minister stating that it is up to each school's discretion whether it is possible for them to reopen to further year groups.

We have looked at how we would be able to open up provision to more children, while also following the current stringent guidance of having small bubbles of no more than 15 children. With this in mind, we have the room and staffing to do this for one other year group. Having carefully considered this, we feel that **Year 5** would be the most viable option, to enable them to have some time in school to help them prepare for their transition into Year 6. This will take place from **Wednesday 1st July**.

Mrs Jones (Family Liaison Officer) has spoken to the parents of the Y5 children to ascertain numbers – this helped us know how many children to expect, which will enable us to make provisions, such as organising each child's individual resource packs and sorting out the layout of the room. I want to reassure you again that we are not pressuring parents to send their children to school – you know what's best for your child's health and wellbeing. Parents will not be fined for not sending their children to school.

All risk assessments and plans are regularly reviewed and amended where necessary, depending on updates and circumstances, so we ask for your understanding in any instances where plans change. These are available on request.

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 are in place:

Drop-off:

- The gates open at 8.15am;
- There is 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;**
- If you wish, you can drop your child off at the back gate where a member of staff will greet them. They can then independently walk around the field to the playground where they will be greeted by another member of staff.

Collection:

- The gates open at 2.30pm;
- Parents **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.

These timings may be subject to change, and we may need to introduce a staggered drop-off and collection times. We will keep you informed of any changes.

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 continue to 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 are 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 are in place in school:

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

What we ask of you

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

- Children are expected to wear a clean set of clothes each day; therefore, no uniform is 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;
- 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.

If your child or a member of your household develops any of these symptoms, access testing via

<https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>

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: <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>
 - Inform the school as soon as you have the results back so we can 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

We are aware that this may be a scary time for children, and there is a big focus on wellbeing and mental health, as well as redeveloping social skills, in school. At the same time, the learning that takes place is based on the activities that are in the home learning packs, with some additions to meet the needs of individual children/bubbles.

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

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