



Brighstone C.E Aided Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs R. Lennon

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Sunday 3rd January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are all well and have had a good Christmas and New Year, despite the circumstances.

I am sending this update because of the current situation regarding Covid. At the time of writing this, primary schools are still expected to stay open and school attendance is mandatory. I know that there are many worries and concerns due to the new strain of Coronavirus and the increase of cases across the country and on the Isle of Wight. I completely understand your concerns and the staff here at Brighstone Primary School are doing everything we can to minimise the risk of transmission.

Our current risk assessment is on our school website:

<https://www.brighstoneprimary.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Brighstone-RA-and-organisation-for-2020-2021-updated-20.10.20.pdf>

This will have some slight updates added to it tomorrow (Monday 4th January) and it will be re-uploaded to the website. I would also like to point you in the direction of the current guidance for parents and carers from the Department for Education:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term#return-in-January>

I would like to thank you for your understanding in following the health and safety measures that are on our risk assessment, and especially the following:

Maintaining social distancing of at least 2m when dropping off and collecting your children

This includes when waiting for the school gates to open in the morning and afternoon, and minimising the number of parents/carers on the playground. Mrs Jones and I will continue to stand by the gate and on the playground monitoring this and ensuring that social distancing is maintained. Please be understanding if we ask you to wait until there is more room. We also ask if you could leave the school premises as soon as you have dropped off or collected your child. Again, please be understanding if we ask you to move on, as this will allow more space for others to collect their children.

Please also ensure that your children remain by your side at all times rather than mixing with other children.

Face coverings

While we are not insisting on the wearing of face coverings outside, if you need to speak to your child's class teacher, then we ask if you could wear a face covering when doing so, while also maintaining a

distance of at least 2m. However, where possible all communication should take place via the telephone or the class email address.

Belongings

Other than the following permitted items, please ensure that your child does not bring anything else into school, unless a prior arrangement has been made with your child's class teacher. In these instances, items will need to be quarantined for 48 hours, or 72 hours for plastics.

Permitted items:

- a water bottle (containing water, not squash, as per our policy)
- lunch box
- reading bag or rucksack
- coat
- PE kit
- reading book and reading record
- homework book

Ventilation

One of the measures that is recommended is natural ventilation. Classrooms will have windows partially open during lesson time, which will be fully opened during playtimes and lunchtimes. While we will ensure that adequate working temperatures are maintained, it will be worthwhile ensuring that your child has warm clothing (e.g. a vest, shirt and jumper/cardigan).

The above points are not exhaustive, and you will find more information in our risk assessment (which will have some updates tomorrow), as mentioned earlier in the letter.

While we are in Tier 4, everyone is expected to remain at home except for essential journeys and for attending work or school. We trust that everyone will be following these regulations to help safeguard our school community as much as possible.

Schools receive daily updates from the Department for Education, and we will keep you informed of any pertinent changes.

If you have any questions about the above, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 740285 or office@brighstoneprimary.org.uk

We thank you for your understanding in this very difficult time.

Kind regards,

Mrs Rebecca Lennon
Headteacher

Mrs Janet Craig
Chair of Governors