



Brighstone C.E Aided Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs R. Lennon

New Road – Brighstone – Isle of Wight – PO30 4BB – Telephone (01983) 740285

www.brighstoneprimary.org.uk

Charity Number: 307389

E-mail: office@brighstoneprimary.org.uk

Friday 5th March 2021

The full reopening of school to all children on Monday 8th March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

We would like to thank you for your understanding and support over the last two months of partial school closures and remote education. They have been difficult times for everyone, which have required much resilience and adaptability. Following the announcement from the Department for Education that all schools will fully reopen to all children from Monday 8th March, we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday!

We have updated our risk assessments and health and safety measures in line with recent guidance, and we would like to let you know the plans that have been put into place. The majority of measures and practicalities remain the same as those that were in place in the autumn term, which are detailed below.

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. The updated risk assessment is always available on our school website.

Please note that the DfE states that:

'School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8 March.

The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- *parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age)*
- *the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.'*

Even though the rates of Covid-19 are dropping and more and more people have received vaccinations, we understand that some of you may still have anxieties about your child attending school again, so we hope that the information in this letter, as well as our detailed risk assessments, will help to reassure you and allay any concerns. However, if you would like to speak with any of our team, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

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 plans will be in place:

Drop-off:

- There is a one-way system in place. Parents and children enter between **8.15am** and **8.25am** via the back gate from Warnes Lane car park;
- 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 and don't run around the field or playground;
- The classroom doors will open at **8.15am**;
- You may be asked to wait at times to ease congestion and aid social distancing;
- Children will go into their classrooms and go immediately to wash their hands;
- Y3/4 children will enter via the library door to avoid congestion around the Y3/4 classroom door;

- Parents exit the playground via the front gate, and are asked to leave the school site as soon as they have dropped off their child to allow for more space to ease the flow of 'traffic';
- **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 line up and walk around the field to the playground where they will be greeted by another member of staff who will see them into their classroom. This option is preferable where possible, to reduce the number of people on the school site.**

Collection:

- The gates open at 2.40pm;
- 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;
- Y3/4 children will be collected via the library door to avoid congestion around the Y3/4 classroom door;
- Once your child is with you, please **exit the playground via the front gate**;
- You are asked to leave the school site as soon as you have collected your child to allow for more space to ease the flow of 'traffic'.

We 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 waiting by the Warnes Lane back gate and coming onto the school site. We also ask that parents don't congregate, as this makes it difficult for others to pass at a suitable social distance.

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

Protective measures in school

While we are adhering to social distancing measures as much as possible, the DfE accepts that children cannot be expected to socially distance. Therefore, children will continue to remain in their 'bubbles' at all times, and stringent hygiene is of the upmost importance.

Here are the main protective measures that will continue to be in place in school:

- Children wash their hands on arrival and regularly throughout the day – children have been taught the correct way to do this;
- Children are in 'bubbles' which they remain in throughout the day, and they don't mix with other bubbles. These bubbles continue to be:
 - Bubble 1 = Reception, Y1 and Y2
 - Bubble 2 = Y3 and Y4
 - Bubble 3 = Y5 and Y6
- Playtimes are staggered to ensure bubbles remain separate;
- Lunchtime arrangements enable bubbles to remain separate;
- Each 'bubble' has their own colour-coded play equipment, which is washed regularly;
- Cleaning of furniture and equipment throughout 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 pencil cases and writing equipment (provided by school);
- Children will be reminded of the rules and routines.

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:

- We ask that children don't bring in any unnecessary items from home, including toys or pencil cases;
- Children can still bring in their own packed lunch boxes, PE kits and bags, 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, and follow the laws pertaining to Covid, including the socialising laws;
- Encourage your child/ren to not touch their face, and to promote 'catch it, bin it, kill it';
- To avoid congestion at the classroom doors in the morning, please send any messages to the class or school office email, or contact the school office on 740285.

Uniform

Children will be expected to wear school uniform as usual. If you need to purchase new or second-hand items of school uniform, please contact the school office.

Wrap-around provision: Breakfast and after-school club

We are still able to provide breakfast and after-school club through Brighstone Preschool. Breakfast club will be 7.30am – 8.25am, and after-school club will be 2.45pm – 5pm. The children will remain in their bubbles to minimise the spread of infection, and stringent health and safety measures will be in place.

This provision will be in the middle room so they don't mix resources and furniture with the preschool children. Therefore, places will be limited to 15 children, and places will need to be booked a half term in advance. Please contact Rosanna Riddett on brighstonepreschool@gmail.com to book a place.

After-school clubs

We are pleased to say that extra-curricular sports clubs are allowed to resume – you will have already received an email about these. Sports clubs will take place in separate bubbles, and there will be a number of health and safety measures in place – see the main risk assessment (on the school website) for more information.

Reading, homework and spelling books

Children can still take books home to read, and homework/spelling books can still go between home and school. Hands should be washed before handling any books that are shared between home and school. Reading books will be put into quarantine before being shared – see the main risk assessment for more information.

School transport – buses and taxis

School transport will resume and take place as per the usual timetable. Children will be expected to use hand sanitizer before boarding the school transport, and they will be sitting at a social distance where possible, or within their school bubbles.

Sharing home learning

Children are expected to bring in their work that was completed during school closures. Hands should be washed before handling any books that are shared between home and school.

Specialist teaching

The DfE states that: *'All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable'*.

We are continuing to carry out specialist teaching where this was previously in place, including PE provision with Mr Goldsmith. Children will be expected to bring in their PE kit on a Monday and take it home on a Friday. Peripatetic music lessons and First Access class lessons in specified classes will resume – see the main risk assessment for more information.

Symptoms and testing

Staff members, parents and carers will need to:

- book a test if they or their child has symptoms - the main symptoms are:
 - a high temperature
 - a new continuous cough
 - a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- self-isolate immediately and not come to school if:
 - they develop symptoms
 - they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

- anyone in their household or support or childcare bubble develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- they are required to do so having recently travelled from certain other countries
- they have been advised to isolate by NHS test and trace or the PHE local health protection team, which is a legal obligation
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with, if they test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests for symptomatic illness can be booked online through the <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/> website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.

School staff have been involved in the Lateral Flow asymptomatic testing programme since January; home tests take place twice a week, which provide a result in 30 minutes.

Staff and parents/carers are also strongly encouraged to use the NHS Test and Trace app.

Mental health and wellbeing

We are aware that this still may be an uncertain time for children, and there is a big focus on wellbeing and mental health, as well as redeveloping social skills, in school. There will be many short, pacy, familiar and fun activities, inside and outside, to help wellbeing.

If you would like further information about the full opening of schools to all children, you may find it useful to read the information for parents in the following link:

<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-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19>

If you have any questions, concerns or worries, please do not hesitate to contact the school. This can be done by emailing the school via office@brighstoneprimary.org.uk, calling the school on 740285 or texting via the Teachers 2 Parents number.

Once again, we thank you for your continued understanding and support, and we look forward to seeing you all again on Monday.

Best wishes,

Mrs Rebecca Lennon
Headteacher

Mrs Janet Craig
Chair of Governors