

Bramley C of E (VA) Infant and Nursery School
Birtley Road, Bramley
Telephone: 01483 892346
Email: office@bramley.surrey.sch.uk
www.bramley.surrey.sch.uk
Head Teacher - Mrs Shona Taylor BA QTS (Hons) NPQH



1st September 2020

Dear Families,

I hope you are all safe and well and have enjoyed the summer break. We are all really looking forward to having your children back in school. Having bumped in to a few of you over the holidays I'm delighted to hear that the children are excited to be returning too. We'd like to extend an extra special welcome to all our new families and hope we can make your start at Bramley as smooth as possible, although we won't be able to welcome you into school currently we will be finding way to get to know your family and look forward to building a strong partnership together. I apologise in advance for the length of this update but I hope you will find it useful and read it in detail so that you are familiar with changes we have put into place in light of the current COVID situation.

Full reopening of the school

Since July we have received a considerable amount of information from the Government, DfE, Public Health England (PHE), Surrey County Council (SCC) and SAfE (schools alliance for excellence) and have liaised with many of the other local schools. We have paid particular regard to PHE 'system of controls'. It goes without saying that our main priority remains the safety and welfare of our children, staff and wider school community in minimising the risk of infection to all. There are numerous regulations that we need to implement but we are making every attempt to maintain a high degree of normality for the children so they continue to feel happy and safe whilst in school.

Pastoral Support

We are very aware that are our children have had many different experiences over the recent months, some of them positive and others less so, we also recognise that all children have missed their social interactions with their peers. Your child's class team will monitor all the children's wellbeing, and will feed that back to you if and when necessary.

We are aware that lockdown period and following months have put a number of families in complex and stressful situations that could not have been predicted. Please do contact the school office if you would like to discuss this with the class teacher or myself.

Additionally, we understand that some parents may still be feeling anxious about the return to school and we would like to support you in every way possible. If this is the case, please do contact us.

Health

As I have said previously, the health and safety of all members of our school community is of paramount importance. If your child or any member of your household develops COVID-19 symptoms-

- high temperature
- new and persistent cough
- anosmia (loss of smell and taste)

Your child must not attend school and you must sign up for a COVID-19 test immediately via the NHS website or by ringing 119. Your household must remain in isolation until you have confirmation of a negative test result.



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If a pupil or member of staff, display symptoms of COVID-19 in school, they will immediately be isolated in our designated medical room, until they can be collected. They will be required to have a COVID-19 test. Staff supporting them will be wearing appropriate PPE.

If the test is negative the affected person can return to school assuming they have no symptoms and the school is satisfied that the affected person is well enough to attend.

If the test is positive, we will follow the advice of the Local Health Protection Team but it is likely that all pupils and adults within that bubble will be asked to self-isolate for fourteen days and not attend school. If the bubble, if required to self-isolate, remote learning will be put in place.

All families and staff are expected to fully engage in the NHS Test and Trace process if required

It is also to be expected that children will pick up colds and sniffles particularly as we approach winter. Please do not send your child to school unless they are well enough to fully engage with the school day. Please note that if your son / daughter has a stomach upset they should not return to school until forty-eight hours after the final bout of sickness or diarrhoea. It goes without saying, that we will take special care of your son / daughter if they become ill but it is imperative that we can contact you in any sort of an emergency. Please ensure we have a least two current contacts for your child.

Protective Measures

As I said above we have made specific reference to the PHE systems of controls in our planning. Child friendly posters reminding the children of the need to wash their hands are visible around the school. New sinks have been fitted outside Reception and Pre-school to increase our capacity for handwashing. Adults and pupils will be required to sanitise their hands on entry to school, before and after break times, before lunch, and anytime that they visit the toilet.

Staff will be embedding good practice through songs and rhymes as well as discussing new rules and expectations regularly throughout the school day. We will also continue to teach good respiratory hygiene and promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Door and windows will also be left open wherever possible to ensure good ventilation throughout the school building.

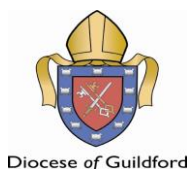
Those staff, parents or children who wear face coverings / masks on the way to school should remove them on arrival and place into a plastic bag, parents should take these home. They should not be disposed of school bins.

Cleaning

We have liaised with our school cleaners to ensure the school is cleaned in line with the government guidelines each day. During the school day school staff will regularly clean high touch areas, resources and communal areas including the toilets. We continue to have large stocks of disinfectant sprays and wipes for staff to use within the classroom and all resources and toys will be cleaned daily or quarantined for an appropriate period. Books and home learning journals will be sent out weekly and must be returned on time so they can be quarantined between use.

Visiting Staff and Contractors

Where possible we have requested all contractors attend outside of school hours, however when it necessary they attend during the school day there is a list of expectations that they must follow to minimise any risk to the school community. We may on occasions need to use a supply teacher, these staff will receive training regarding school protection procedures and sign to say they have understood.



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Transport

The Government is recommending that as many children walk or cycle to school as possible, although I appreciate this is not always convenient. If you have to drive, you **must not** park in the school car park as this is now a waiting area for collection and if at all possible please park away from The Coombs to ease congestion. Additionally, we would be grateful that if you are planning car shares that this is done within class bubbles where possible.

Bubbles

Each class is now effectively a bubble, the pre-school and nursery are defined as a single bubble. The purpose of bubbles is to minimise contacts and mixing between people, reducing the potential transmission of coronavirus. There has been recognition from the DfE that young children cannot distance themselves from staff or from each other and therefore the bubbles provide an additional protective measure as children are not required to social distance from other within the bubble. Where possible staff will also remain within their class bubble however there will be some movement to support full delivery of the curriculum and teacher planning and preparation time. All staff will endeavour to maintain a safe distance from the children and will implement the appropriate protective measures. However, this will not prevent us from comforting and supporting children when necessary.

Arrival and Dismissal

As a result of the DfE guidelines, we are still unable to welcome parents onto the school site and only one parent may bring their child to school. We ask main school parents say goodbye to your son / daughter at the main entrance and nursery and pre-school parents say goodbye at the door to the building having entered via the Birtley Road gate. Staff will be on hand in all areas to support your child in entering the school.

We are very aware that some of the children will be starting school for the very first time; we will make this as special as possible for you and them. If you have a message for your teacher it would be helpful if you could email this in advance to the office.

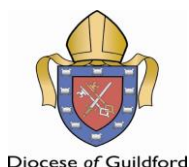
Children may only enter the school at their allocated time and should not gather in a group at the entry points before this time and, only one adult should accompany their child/ren to school. Please note that parents / carers are not allowed to access the school's site during the school day and if your son / daughter becomes unwell or has an accident the office will be in contact with you to make arrangements for you to collect them.

It is important that parents /carers do not gather to chat, either at the beginning or end of the school day. I am sure that many of you, like me are looking forward to seeing each other again but we are not in a position to chat at the gates at the moment. Please try and remember everything you need for your child/ren although we know it can be very hectic in the morning! In the event, you do forget something please call the buzzer at the gate and the office staff will collect and deliver to your child for you.

If your child has medication including inhalers and epipens please put these in a clearly labelled bag and place them in the labelled box on the first day of term.

Please see below for information regarding arrival and dismissal times.

We understand that there may be some logistical difficulties regarding those of you with more than one child returning to school. Siblings should be dropped at the earliest class time and collected at the latest class time.



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Please let the office know if you intend to do this so suitable staff are on hand to supervise your child.

	Drop off	Collect	Gate
Nursery and Pre-school	Between 8.30am-8.45am	11.30am, 12.30pm or 3pm	Birtley Road Gate
Reception	8.30am	2.40pm	The Coombs Gate
Year 1	8.40am	2.50pm	The Coombs Gate
Year 2	8.55am	3.05pm	The Coombs Gate

Curriculum

We intend to teach a full a broad curriculum from the beginning of the Autumn term, we will of course initial focus on transitions and helping the children settle and feel confident in their new environments. The Year 2 classrooms will be set out with tables facing forward with pupils sitting at the same space, most of the time. Cleaning will take place if children are required to move. The other classes will be set out for continuous provision allowing children to access learning around the room, again these have been set up in line with the recommended control systems. We will continue to remove some of the soft furnishings from classrooms, such as rugs, cushions, role play clothes and soft toys to help to minimise the risk of infection. Classroom doors will be left open (unless fire doors) and windows will be left open to encourage good ventilation. Outdoor learning will also be encouraged and we will make good use of all areas of the school.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship is an important part of school life and these will continue via Zoom at the moment and children and staff will participate from a distance in their classes. We are hopeful that this will also allow visitors including Rev'd Andy Davis to join in with these remotely.

Trips

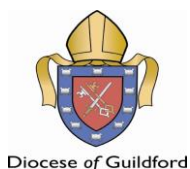
According to the government guidelines pupils are now allowed to go on trips. However, we have no immediate plans to resume trips, we will continue to review the situation regularly and inform you when we are ready to do so.

Forest School

Mrs Archer is our forest school leader and will be supporting other staff to ensure the children have access to forest school learning. All learning will take place in class bubbles and all equipment will be cleaned.

Music

The Government regulations have suggested that there could be an additional risk of infection in environments where children and adults are singing, chanting, playing wind and brass instruments or shouting. The DfE have been clear that communal singing cannot take place in large groups, class teachers will make the necessary adjustments to ensure music still plays an important part of our curriculum.



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PE

We are delighted to be able to welcome Coach Ben and Coach Josh back to the school this term. In collaboration with the school they have undertaken an extensive risk assessment and will now be able to offer outdoor PE sessions for all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children on a Friday.

From 11th September children in these classes should come to school dressed in PE clothes and trainers. All sessions will take place outside so if it is cold please ensure children have track suit bottoms and school jumpers on.

Coach Ben has planned a program that ensures classes will be studying different sports and therefore will not need to share equipment across the bubbles. All of the equipment that will be used belongs to Bramley Infant School and will be thoroughly cleaned before being returned to our PE store.

We currently have no plans for Year 2 to starting swimming at the moment but will continue to review this decision.

Uniform

Pupils in the main school will be expected to return to school in their usual school uniform. Clothes no longer need to be laundered on a daily basis. Children should only bring: water bottles, book bag with reading diary, packed lunch and a coat. We will be outside for large parts of the day so suggest a coat is bought daily. Children must not bring toys to school.

School Calendar

The Government regulations do not currently permit schools to host whole-school events where children and adults are able to congregate. Therefore, our some of our usual events will need to be rethought. Mrs Katie Rees and the PTA have already been discussing how this may be done. We will also be hosting curriculum meetings and parent consultations via zoom this term and will be in touch soon with details for these. A weekly diary will be sent out via email each Friday with any significant dates for the following week, the monthly newsletter has a section for upcoming events and all information is also available on the calendar on our website.

Catering

Mrs Emma Murphy will continue to cook some delicious meals for all our children these remain free for children in the main school and can be purchased for Nursery and Pre-school children if required. We also understand that the free fruit and vegetable scheme will return and children will have access to a piece of fruit each day.

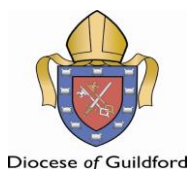
Lunchtimes have been staggered to minimise the risk of contact between the bubbles.

Travel and Quarantine Requirements

There are now a number of countries in which it is mandatory to have a period of fourteen days' quarantine on return to the UK. Children will not be able to return to school until the end of their quarantine period, should they have travelled to a country without an air bridge at the point they return to the UK.

Action in Response to a Regional or National Lockdown

There continues to be a degree of uncertainty regarding the situation regarding COVID-19 and I think we are all aware of the threat of a second wave of the virus. While we obviously all hope this is not required the teaching staff are already planning appropriate remote learning should this be necessary.



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Information from the Government

The Government have requested that we share the following link with you regarding the return of all children to school in September.

#backtoschoolsafely

<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>

How can parents help?

- Continue to reinforce and practice good handwashing
- Remind them to sneeze into their elbow and use tissues if required properly
- Talk positively about returning to school and encourage them to share the exciting parts of their day.
- Read and be clear on arrival and collection times and other expectations laid out above.
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Enjoy the last few days of the holiday and we look really forward to seeing you all and having all the children back in school soon.

Kind regards

Shona Taylor

Head Teacher

