

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### September Full Opening Information

I hope you have all had a fantastic summer break. As we start an unprecedented school year, the leadership team of Bovington Academy would like to share some of the control measures in place for your child's return to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Even though we are all coming back to school, we are aware that the threat of the virus has not gone away completely, so we will continue to follow very strict health and safety procedures in order to keep your children and the staff safe and healthy.

The government guidelines still remain that children need to remain in 'bubbles', however the size of these bubbles is not so directive. As a school, we have decided a safe and manageable way for children to return to school will be within 'phase bubbles'. This means that all children in Year 5 & 6 will form a bubble; all children in Year 3 & 4 will form a bubble; all children in Year 1 & 2 will form a bubble; all children in Reception will form a bubble. These bubbles will be able to mix for play time, lunchtime, interventions and other activities during the school day but not mix with other bubbles. Obviously, safety measures and systems for recording which children have been in contact with each other, for periods of 15 minutes or longer, will be in place to support an accurate track and trace system in the case of a positive test.

We intend to reduce risk of contamination by:

- grouping children together in their bubbles as outlined above
- avoiding contact between different groups of children or 'bubbles'
- arranging classrooms with forward facing desks where appropriate
- staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible
- minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- Providing enhanced cleaning

Unfortunately, for the moment, parents will not be allowed onto school property. This may change as transmission rates fall, but currently this is a safety decision which needs to be adhered to.

Staggered drop off and pick up times will be as follows;

Phase	Timings	Location
Year 5 & Year 6	8.40am/3pm	Main gates
Year 3 & Year 4	8.50am/3.10pm	Main gates
Year 1 & Year 2	9am/3.20pm	Main gates

Reception	9am/3.15pm	Reception side gate
-----------	------------	---------------------

For families with siblings in different classes/phases, for convenience all siblings can be dropped off and collected with the sibling in the last time slot. School staff will look after your child until that time slot. Please make sure you follow the one-way system, maintain social distancing and move on quickly after dropping off/picking up your children to prevent congestion at the entrances to the school. Any conversations with teachers need to be via email or telephone for the time being.

The school minibus will continue to drop off and pick up, but this will now be organised in phases with the older children being on the first run. Children will be expected to hand sanitise before boarding the minibus and it will be cleaned between different groups. Staff on the mini bus will wear face shields.

### **Breakfast Club and After-School Provision**

These will recommence Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September and a separate letter with details of booking and costs will be sent out shortly. Children will be arranged in group bubbles that mirror the phase bubbles as closely as possible at these provisions. These groups will remain consistent and again a clear track and trace system will be in place in case of a confirmed case of Coronavirus. Due to the additional measures in place, spaces are limited.

### **Lunches**

The kitchen will be fully operational from September and hot meals will be provided – children will be able to bring in their own packed lunches and fruit snacks for break. Due to the numbers of children we will need to get through the canteen and keep separate, some may be eating their lunches in class. The organisation around this will come into place in September when we have accurate numbers of those eating school lunches and those bringing in their own. For children in Years R, 1 & 2, please remember you are entitled to a free school lunch, as part of the Universal Free School Meals offer.

### **Uniform**

Uniform is expected to be worn by all children on their return to school in September. Please follow the link below for full details.

<https://www.bovington-aspirations.org/parents-information/uniform/>

Children will come into school wearing their PE kits on their PE days – more information on this will be communicated by your child's class teacher by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2020.

### **Control Measures**

A cleaner has been employed since March to be in school during the day to constantly clean areas that experience high levels of traffic, like the toilets. He has also been cleaning the hotspots of door handles, table tops, emptying tissue bins etc. This enhanced cleaning will continue in September to ensure our children are kept as safe as possible. All children have access to hand washing facilities and sanitiser remains readily available in all classrooms. Children will continue to be taught the importance of regular and thorough hand washing and will be required to wash/gel hands on entry and exit. To keep everybody safe all children will be required to wash their hands regularly; if you think your child may struggle with this then please contact the Pastoral Team for support.

Children will have their own resources, including pencils, rulers, glue stick, scissors etc. for use during the school day. Please do not send in equipment from home and school bags are not allowed either. Reading books will not be allowed home initially but Mrs Muraro will provide information on online platforms to access reading books. They will be allowed within

classes when in school and we will quarantine periodically to ensure they remain virus free. If you have any school reading books at home, please return to school so that we can quarantine and arrange for these to go back into the library.

Any child or staff member showing symptoms will be isolated and sent home immediately. They will need to be tested and evidence of a negative test needs to be seen by school where possible before they are allowed to return. In line with government guidance, anyone that remains symptomatic must remain in isolation for at least 10 days. This is because they could still develop the virus within the remaining days. If a child or adult tests positive for coronavirus, all those that have been in direct contact will be sent home and asked to self-isolate for 14 days and school will contact Public Health England for advice and instruction.

I hope the measures outlined above will go some way to reassure you that the leadership team of Bovington has carefully considered and risk assessed all eventualities. The government guidance changes often and we will do our best to keep parents up-to-date. Systems and risks will be constantly under review and we will update and edit risk assessments as issues arise.

School will be a different place to that which you and your children are used to. Please bear with us as we work to keep the whole school community safe and well.

Do not hesitate to send any questions you may have via the office email address and somebody will get back to you as soon as possible. In the meantime, enjoy the remainder of your summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming you all back to school for a new beginning on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.