

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

8<sup>th</sup> March Full Opening Information

Finally we have received the news that we have all been waiting for; apologies that I am only just sending this letter now but I wanted to be sure that all DFE guidance was reflected to save numerous and possibly conflicting information being sent out. Before I share some of the control measures in place for your child's return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, I would just like to say how proud everybody at Bovington is of our children and parents/carers. It has been an exceptionally difficult time and you have all shown incredible resilience and adaptability. The press would like to focus in on everything that has been lost and missed due to lockdown, but the Team at Bovington wants you to think about how much has been gained; new skills learnt, opportunities taken and time spent together.

The government guidelines still remain that children need to be in 'bubbles', however the size of these bubbles is not 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 Reception, Year 1 & 2 will form a bubble; three bubbles across the school in total. 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 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
- ventilating classrooms to prevent transmission
- staff will engage in asymptomatic testing twice a week

Unfortunately, for the moment, parents will need to continue to wear face coverings when coming onto school grounds. 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 – drop off	Location – pick up
Year 5 & Year 6	8.40am/3pm	Main gates	Main gates
Year 3 & Year 4	8.45am/3.05pm	Main gates	Main gates
Year 1 & Year 2	8.50am/3.10pm	Main gates	Outside classrooms
Reception	8.45am/3.05pm	Reception side gate	Reception side gate
Siblings	8.50am/3.10pm	Main gates	Outside classrooms

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. Please try and keep to the time slots. Any conversations with teachers will continue to be via email or telephone for the time being.

The school minibus will continue to drop off and pick up, but this will still 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 coverings – please contact the school office if you would like to book a place for your child.

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

These will recommence Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and a separate correspondence has been sent out about contacting the office to be put on a waiting list. 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 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. 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. If you feel your circumstances have now changed and you may be eligible for free school meals, please apply using the link on the school website.

### **Uniform**

Uniform is expected to be worn by all children on their return to school; 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 – these remain the same days as prior to lockdown. Teachers will email as a reminder.

### **Control Measures**

A cleaner has been employed since last lockdown to be in school to clean areas that experience high levels of traffic, like the toilets. She has also been cleaning the hotspots of door handles, table tops, emptying tissue bins etc. This enhanced cleaning will continue 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, exit, before eating and during any transition. 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 Inclusion Team for support.

Reading books will be allowed home 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. Book bags are also allowed to be brought to school but please keep everything else to a minimum.

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 10 days and school will contact Public Health England for advice and instruction.

### **Rapid Lateral Flow Testing**

About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus spreading and protect loved ones. The Government announced at the beginning of the week that families of school age children will have access to testing once schools reopen ( <http://bit.ly/3uPA4uu>).

You can get a twice-weekly test:

- Through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- At a local test site
- By collecting a home test kit from a test site
- By ordering a home test online

### **Science Week**

To ease children back into school in a positive way, Mrs Williamson has planned an exciting and week full of investigations and science fun! A separate letter has been sent out asking that children come into school with a lab coat, white shirt or T-shirt if possible as they will be turned into scientists for the week. Look out for the photos on Facebook and details of a live assembly will be sent out shortly for parents to hear all about the learning that has taken place.

Our children are the future and that future is not yet written; there are challenges but there always has been and always will be. The staff at school are here for you and are committed to ensuring the transition back from lockdown will be positive, and hopefully the last one. We cannot wait to see what your children will achieve over the next few months and we are excited to be part of it.

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, stay safe and healthy and we will see everybody back together on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Sara White (Principal)