



## Bowburn Primary School

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7.6.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been two weeks since my last update when I informed you about the delayed phased return of pupils, following advice from Durham County Council. We are now working towards a phased return of pupils in the priority year groups from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. As we finish our 10<sup>th</sup> week of school closure and lockdown, can I again thank you on behalf of all the staff and Governors for the work you are doing as we go through these difficult and unprecedented times.

In school, we continued to remain open for the children of essential workers and vulnerable children. Numbers have increased somewhat since Easter, and we have around 20 children attending each day. I would like to thank the parents and carers of these children, as well as the children themselves for the resilience they have shown during the last 10 weeks. We know that most of the children will continue to attend school once we have a wider opening.

### Adjustments to school environment:

My staff have been coming into school to teach the children still attending but we have also started to make the many adjustments needed to the school environment ready for more pupils to attend safely from June 15<sup>th</sup>. Furniture has been removed or rearranged, resources selected with many items removed which can't be easily cleaned. A thorough deep clean of all of the areas is taking place, and the junior building and nursery have been reopened. These changes will mean that the safety and social distancing measures which are required can be maintained as far as possible, but it will mean a completely different school environment for children to what they are used to. The classrooms and reception/nursery in particular look very stark, and a more formal way of learning will be necessary as children stay seated at their own desks and mixing is minimised. This won't be easy for some children, so please talk to them about this to prepare them before they return. I will be taking some photos in the next day or two and sharing them to the website so everyone can see what school now looks like. Our school risk assessment is now on the website home page and can be viewed by parents.

### **Pupils returning from June 15<sup>th</sup>: Important information for parents:**

On Friday, I emailed out the important information to those parents/carers who have already indicated they want their child(ren) to return from June 15<sup>th</sup>. It explains the 'bubbles' or groups of



pupils, the key health and safety information, and staggered timings of the school day, amongst other things. We have had a number of parents recently request key worker places, however we have had to cap this as there are only limited spaces and staff available, **so currently we are unable to accept any more requests for key worker places.**

We have made the decision as a school to offer pupils in all of the priority year groups (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6) the opportunity to return from 15<sup>th</sup> June, as well as continuing to have two key worker 'bubbles' based in the infants and juniors. Many schools have not been able to do this. This means that we have to cap the size of the bubbles, and in particular the keyworker bubbles, at an upper limit of 15, as per guidance for safety reasons. *All parents who are keyworkers need to inform us in advance of the days that the children will be attending otherwise we may not be able to guarantee their places.*

If you have not received the information on returning pupils and believe you should have done so, please get in touch immediately.

#### Summer holidays and transition:

Parents have been asking us about whether school will be opening during the summer holidays (including for key workers' children) also if any other year groups will be returning before the end of term and what might be happening from September. I wish I had the answers ! At present there is no information forthcoming from Government, so we are advised that school will be closed over the summer holidays. If we hear otherwise we will immediately inform you. Similarly, there is no information currently on what will be happening from September.

For those who have children due to start in September, to transition from Nursery to Reception, Year 2 to Y3 and Year 6 to Year 7 we are acutely aware that normal transition activities are not currently able to take place. Staff in Reception have made a series of short videos to explain transition to you and your child, which we will share with you shortly, and we hope these will help your child to feel more comfortable about the move to main school. We are liaising with secondary schools to share information as we always do.

#### Uniform:

A reminder that all school uniform is purchased online from Emblematic via the website: <https://studentuniform.co.uk/bowj044> We strongly recommend ordering uniform early to ensure it will be ready for September.

#### Home learning:

Suggested activities for home learning are updated weekly by staff on the website 'Our Classes' page. If you have any questions or require resources to be printed, please get in touch with school or your child's teacher direct via email. Home learning activities for those pupils not in school will continue to be posted from 15<sup>th</sup> June. Thank you for your support with home learning.

Kind regards, stay safe.



Mrs Glass