



## Bowburn Primary School

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Head Teacher

Mrs J Glass

Deputy Head teachers

Mr P Soler, Miss C Noble

2.3.21.

Dear Parents and Carers.

### Information for Parents and Carers for March 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 on pupils' safe return to school.

As we come to the end of the latest period of lockdown I know that you will be keen to know the arrangements for your children returning to school next week. We are really excited to be welcoming pupils back to school; we have missed all of the children very much but as remote learning has continued we feel we have been able to keep in touch more this time round. On behalf of all the staff can I thank you all for the support you have given your children to engage with the remote learning offer. We really do appreciate it. We know it hasn't always been easy to balance home educating with your work and other commitments.

I'd like to share the updates that have arrived recently which have come from Government and the Local Authority on safer re-opening of schools. We have been working hard to make sure everything is ready and safe for pupils to return to school. Our risk assessment is ingbe updated again in preparation and I will share this on our website once completed.

#### Returning to School :

Firstly, you will be aware the Government have said that **ALL** primary children should return on March 8th. However, I appreciate this may still be a worry for you, given that Covid 19 is still prevalent. Whilst school will be as safe as we can make it, the risk hasn't entirely disappeared. However, we will still be implementing the measures and controls that we used last term. If you remember, there were very few cases in school and therefore minimal disruption to children's learning. We are working hard to ensure this continues and trust you will also support us in this .

#### Dates and Times of Return: School re-opens to all pupils on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

There will be no staggered return of year groups. Details of times for each year group are below. The same start/ finish times are being used to reduce crowding. Parents will still not be able to enter the school buildings, unless by prior appointment with the school.

**Nursery:** Times as normal for the sessions.

**Reception and KS1 (Infant site):** Start time: 8.50-9.00am. Collection is from 2.50-3.00pm. Please use the same entrances and one way systems as per last term.

**KS2 ( Junior site) :** Start time 8.45am- 9. 00am. Collection from 3.00- 3.15pm.



Please DO NOT congregate around the gates prior to them being opened by staff or when leaving and maintain social distancing at all times when moving around and between the sites. Can parents remain behind the yellow line on the junior yard as before.

Government guidance still emphasises only ONE parent or carer should bring or collect the children.

### **Building work:**

There is currently building work going on around the junior site to create a pathway to the new school. This area is fenced off but do not allow younger children to run around the yard and site as this may mean they can get into one of the unsafe areas. It is parents' responsibility to keep children under control at all times on the yard.

### **Face coverings:**

Staff are now advised to wear face coverings in school when moving around the building, and at the start and end of the day. Staff will generally not wear face coverings when teaching. We also request that ALL parents /carers should wear a face covering when dropping off and collecting children (unless exempt). This is especially important on the yards where social distancing may be difficult.

There remains no requirement for primary children to wear face coverings in school, though you may choose to let them wear them on the way to and from school.

### **Health and Hygiene:**

Hopefully, all the children will be fit and well and raring to come back to school ! However, I have to remind everyone that you **must not** send your child to school if they show any signs or symptoms of Covid 19.

#### **Please do not send your child to school if they have:**

- **A new or continuous cough,**
- **A high temperature**
- **A reduced or altered sense of taste or smell.**

In addition, as normal we would ask that you do not send them in if they are generally unwell or show other symptoms e.g. of bad cold or flu , stomach upset etc.

If they or members of the household do show symptoms of Covid 19 you must follow the government guidance on isolation, and that a test for Covid 19 is arranged online immediately for the child and /or the member of the household. <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by ringing 119.

The outcome of this test should be shared with school as soon as it is received, as if it is positive we will need to take action.

Staff are now being tested twice weekly using lateral flow tests, however there are currently no plans to test primary children in school. This means you must continue to be vigilant to watch for symptoms, and we will do likewise.

There will still be a big emphasis on handwashing, hand sanitising and social distancing. We trust you continue to reinforce this at home too. Children will remain in 'year group bubbles'



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which will be kept apart from other bubbles as far as possible, for example at playtime and lunchtime. In order to get all pupils back to school, the social distancing in classrooms will continue as far as practical, desks of older infant and all junior children will continue to face the front and be socially distanced from teaching staff and we will ensure that there is adequate ventilation and outdoor learning takes place whenever we can.

**If children show symptoms of Covid 19 during the school day, they will be isolated safely and you will be called to come to school immediately to collect them, then you must follow the guidance on isolation and arranging a test.**

### **Breakfast Clubs, After School Clubs and School Lunches.**

Unfortunately, for the remainder of this term we are unable to offer Breakfast Club or after school clubs. We will be in a position to restart breakfast club in the new school as soon as we can. Places will be limited so priority will be given to children with working parents. We await further guidance on running after school clubs, however at present there are limited visitors allowed on site to reduce infection risks. We hope to hold staff-run clubs once in the new school building; again we will keep parents updated.

School lunches will be served in the usual way. Lunchtimes will continue to be staggered to allow cleaning to take place between year group sittings. Children will play outside in their year group bubbles after lunch. All parents should have now signed up for Parent Pay, if you have any problems with this please contact the school office.

### **School Uniform:**

Children will need to wear school uniform when they return. If you need to order school uniform this should be done online: <https://studentuniform.co.uk/bowj044/>

Please ensure all uniform is marked with children names to prevent mix ups and children wear warm outdoor clothing (coats) especially over their PE kits. Can I also remind everyone that trainers are not allowed on non- PE days and girls should not wear leggings in place of proper school uniform trousers or skirts.

### **PE Kits:**

Children will continue to come to school already dressed in their school PE kits on the days they need to, (red t- shirt, blue shorts, trainers or plimsolls) to save children having to get changed in school. Your child's class teacher will remind children of the day or days on which they need to wear their PE kit. A school tracksuit is part of the PE uniform for older pupils and younger pupils also need to wear something warm over their PE shorts and t shirt. We will try to have PE outdoors, weather permitting, as much as possible.



**What to bring to school:**

Guidance continues to suggest that a minimum of equipment and items should be brought between home and school to reduce the risk of virus transmission. We are therefore still asking that you do not send your child to school with a lot of stuff! These things are allowed:

- Packed lunches
- Coats, hats etc
- Books, homework
- Water bottle (marked with child's name)
- Bags are allowed

Mobile phones should not be brought to school.

**Finally – some school updates:**

**Staffing update:** Mr Soler will be the Deputy Headteacher and Miss Noble the Assistant Headteacher once we are in the new school.

**World Book Day:** is taking place this Thursday both in school and through home learning. Teachers will be sharing details of the year group activities via Class Dojo. Book vouchers will be distributed once children return next week.

**Red Nose Day:** We will be having a non- uniform day on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March to raise money. We will set up a donation page on Parent Pay shortly. Wear your red noses !

**Move to new school:** I hope everyone managed to see the letter I sent out last Friday about the planned move to the new school. If not, it is on the website and I would urge everyone to read this. It is a while since staff visited the site but we know from discussions that it is coming on and we are still on track to open to pupils on 19<sup>th</sup> April. I will be explaining how the new school will operate closer to the time. We are hoping to share some videos before the move so children are more familiar with the building, as I appreciate it is yet another change for them. Staff will be working hard on settling everyone happily back into school next week and discussions about the move will form part of this. It's exciting to be so close to finally getting into the school we have waited so long for.

More news will be shared soon.

Stay safe,

Mrs Glass.