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Learning Together, Believing Together

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Friday, February 26th, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to update you on our plans for the return of all our pupils on Monday, March 8th. This letter outlines in greater detail our plans, so thank you in advance for reading the measures below, and for emailing the school office should you have any questions or concerns about school reopening for all pupils; as ever, these plans are subject to change following daily risk-assessing, and direction from the Department for Education and Local Education Authority.

We are very pleased that we can once again welcome back all our pupils. We are very much looking forward to seeing all pupils enjoying their time at school.

The first day of school for all children is Monday, March 8th. The Government has made clear that pupils are expected to attend school every day. Children will be expected to wear full school uniform.

As you will know, it has been well reported that, across the country, cases of the Coronavirus in schools can often be attributed to adults associated with the school community such as staff, parents and carers, and visitors. Therefore, we want to continue to ensure we do not have a large gathering at the school gates; as before, we will stagger children's morning arrival and afternoon collection from school and ask that **parents do not gather at the school gate**. It is important that just **one parent** drops off their child at school each day to minimise the risk of transmission between households. To ensure your safety, and for reasons of transmission, we also ask that you do not enter the school building (unless by pre-arranged appointment). If you would like to arrange to speak with any member of the school team, please pre-arrange an appointment via the school office at barcombeoffice@skylarkfed.education

The timings of our staggered drop-off and pick-up times are as follows:

8.35am – 8.45am – Hedgehogs, Squirrels and Badgers

8.50am – 9.00am – Foxes and Owls

At the end of the day:

3.00pm – Hedgehogs

3.05pm – Squirrels and Badgers

3.15pm – Foxes and Owls

These staggered times allow a gap so the school gates can be clear of parents before the next group of children arrives or leaves.

In addition, to save families having to wait at the gate for another sibling to be dismissed at the end of the day, siblings will now wait with their teacher until a parent/carer has come to collect the second sibling at the later pick-up time. For instance, if you have children in Hedgehogs Class and Fox Class (who are collected at 3pm and 3.15pm respectively), your child in Hedgehogs Class can be collected at 3.15pm. They will wait with their class teacher in the school hall or classroom.

As previously, we ask that parents do not enter the playground with their children but that the children line up with their classmates as usual. Additionally, we are very mindful that we have split year-group classes within our school. The school will ensure these split year groups have opportunities to share and enjoy playtime and lunch time sessions together each day. Children will be able to play in year group bubbles, supervised by a member of staff.

We ask all visitors when indoors on the school site, including parents and carers, to wear a mask in communal areas (including the corridor and office area). We are still limiting the numbers of visitors to our school, and ask that parents and carers still continue to contact the office to arrange a phone call with class teachers or the Senior Leadership Team as a first port of call.

As well as preparing for a return of all pupils from Monday 8th March, we are also mindful that we may still be required to offer remote learning with little or no notice if we find ourselves subject to a localised or national lockdown. This will be via Google Classroom or Tapestry as it has been for the last few weeks.

Finally, all children who are attending an educational setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. The aim is to enable children to get back to school/childcare, and their parents/carers need not self-isolate any longer than is necessary, if the test proves negative. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff in their setting. Further guidance is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

All members of school staff are now also taking part in asymptomatic testing and are using Lateral Flow Tests twice weekly. This regime has been in place since January and is well-established. If a member of staff or pupil receives a positive test result, the school will seek advice from Public Health England and inform those affected (as was the protocol before the Christmas break).

Thank you for taking the time to read this more detailed summary of the measures that will be implemented from September to ensure children are safe at Barcombe CE Primary School. Below, we list these measures as a handful of bullet points for your reference, as well as providing you with a reminder of some other measures previously implemented:

- Pupils will arrive at school and leave school according to the staggered times outlined above;
- Indoors, pupils will remain in consistent class bubbles throughout the school day;
- Pupils will play in year group bubbles during play times and lunch times;
- G-Suite log-ins will be used in case of localised/national lockdowns in the future;
- Children will be prioritised for testing should they display any symptoms;
- Classrooms will be kept well-ventilated;
- Children will wash their hands frequently throughout the day, including on arrival at school, before home time and between sessions;
- Cleaning staff will clean the school site at the beginning of the day and in the middle of the day, with a particular focus on high-touch areas such as switches, door handles and tables.

Thank you again for taking the time to familiarise yourselves with these measures. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday March 8th.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S James
Executive Head Teacher



Mrs R Force
Head of School

To the best of our knowledge, this information is accurate as of 26th February 2021, but is subject to change.

What are the expectations regarding pupil attendance?

The government has made clear that all children are to return to school on Monday 8th March. The law governing pupil attendance is now the same as before the Lockdown.

How can I keep my child safe, and those in their bubble?

Everyone should follow the official Government advice. This may change regularly but the key messages of social distancing (staying at least 1m+ apart) and not mixing with other households are essential. We really appreciate your support in reinforcing these messages at home.

How will the school day look from now on? Will it be 'normal' for pupils?

We continue to run an 'adapted' school day, including moving assemblies from the school hall (where we once had all our pupils together) to classrooms where pupils will remain in their class bubbles. We will gently guide pupils through these modifications when they return on Monday 8th March.

What should pupils bring with them each day?

Pupils should bring their book-bags to school with them; however, we still ask parents and carers to limit the number of items children transport between school and home. As before during the pandemic, we discourage children to bring toys and personal effects with them to help prevent potential transmission between school and home.

How are you risk-assessing for this wider return?

All schools in the Skylark Federation have a live risk assessment which is updated daily – and even hourly – following constant reassessment of the risks posed. These measures form part of what has been highlighted in the above letter.

When children are working in their classrooms, will the rooms be well-ventilated?

Yes, at the beginning of each day all windows are opened in classrooms (and remain so for the entire day). Additionally, doors are propped open, too.

What are the staggered pick-up and drop-off times?

At the start of the day:

8.35am – 8.45am – Hedgehogs, Squirrels and Badgers

8.50am – 9.00am – Foxes and Owls

At the end of the day:

3.00pm – Hedgehogs

3.05pm – Squirrels and Badgers

3.15pm – Foxes and Owls

How will Parent Consultation Meetings look this term?

We are conducting our Parent Consultation Meetings via Zoom this term. A letter inviting you to book your appointments will come out shortly.

Can you explain the school's Safeguarding arrangements from Monday 8th March?

We are once again ready to respond to the challenges that may arise when we welcome all our pupils back to school next Monday 8th March. Communication is key: please let us know if there are any issues we should be aware of at school.

What are the school's uniform expectations?

Pupils are expected to wear full school uniform: the normal school uniform code applies.

Should pupils wear PE kits to school on their PE day?

Yes, we ask that pupils come to school wearing their PE kits on their 'PE day'.

Hedgehogs: Tuesday and Wednesday

Squirrels: Monday and Thursday

Badgers: Tuesday and Friday

Foxes: Monday and Tuesday

Owls: Monday and Thursday

What are your school-dinner/catering arrangements?

Chartwells – our school catering service – has ensured that all food preparation and serving arrangements are Covid-secure. The amended school timetable also provides us the opportunity to stagger lunch times and to sanitise chairs/tables between sittings. Hot lunches will be available as normal.

What happens if there is a confirmed case?

If there is a confirmed outbreak at school, local health teams will work with the school to agree what action is needed.

Will my child be eligible for testing if they display symptoms of the coronavirus?

All children who are attending an educational setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. The aim is to enable children to get back to school/childcare, and their parents/carers need not self-isolate any longer than is necessary, if the test proves negative. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff in their setting. Further guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>.

Will teachers be wearing PPE?

Only for first aid, intimate care duties and if a child displays symptoms of Covid-19.

Will there be temperature checks for children?

We will not test every pupil's temperature on arrival; instead, small, consistent class bubbles will be the principal control measure for helping prevent potential transmission of the virus.

Can a single adult bring their other children to drop-off?

Yes, as long as they do not interact with any other children, adults or families on the school gate.

Will staff be able to comfort children in the same way if they are upset?

Staff will not be able to touch children except for first aid or intimate care, but we will be able to comfort pupils verbally.

What happens if we are late for our scheduled drop-off time?

We ask that you arrive at 09.15am, once the last of the staggered groups has arrived for the day. This is to minimise interaction between groups.