



# Benwick Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Talbot

[www.benwick.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.benwick.cambs.sch.uk)

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Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a great summer and that you, and the children, are all ready for the new school year. We are all looking forward to welcoming everyone back on Thursday to what will hopefully be a more normal year!

As you are all aware, Coronavirus has not gone away, however as a country we are now more equipped to live with it. As a school our priorities are keeping everyone safe as well as providing an excellent standard of education and we therefore want to keep Covid out of our school so that children and staff do not have to spend time away from school ill or isolating with Covid. Therefore, as we start back on Thursday we will have the following procedures in place:

Start/End of day:

There are no longer staggered starts to the school day. The gates at the side of the village hall will open at 8.40am to allow children and parents on to the playground. Staff will meet children on the playground and a whistle will be blown at 8.45am for the children to line up and go in to their classes. If you wish to speak to a staff member this should be done outside and before the whistle please. Whilst we don't expect you to wear a mask on the playground outside, please do socially distance from staff where possible. Please leave the playground once the whistle has been blown and children have entered the buildings. The gate will be locked at 8.50am and any children arriving after this time will need to be admitted via the front door.

At the end of the day the gates at the side of the village hall will be opened at 3.05pm and children will be brought out of the classrooms on to the playground to meet you at 3.10pm, this is the home time for all children. If you wish to speak to a staff member, please wait until all the children have been matched with collecting adults.

Protective measures:

We are no longer required to have one way systems and class bubbles in place, children will be able to interact outside with children from other classes at breaks and lunchtime. However, we will keep our hygiene routines, particularly handwashing and additional cleaning of high touch points such as tables, door handles etc, staff will continue to regularly test whilst this is advised and test kits are provided to school staff (currently until the end of September) and we will continue to ventilate all rooms. We will also keep visitors in to school to those essential only. We do hope that we will not have an outbreak in the local area, or the school, however if this were to happen, we would liaise closely with Public Health England and the Local Authority and protective measures that were previously in place, such as face



masks, bubbles, staggered timings etc may be reinstated, however this would all be clearly communicated with you.

Covid Symptoms and positive tests:

Anyone with Covid symptoms should get a PCR test, the results of these are back really quickly now. The guidance on whether individuals have to isolate can be confusing and so I have attached a helpful flowchart to this email to help you. If your child does have time off school for a PCR test or has tested positive for Covid, remote learning provision will be provided via our school website.

We are looking forward to settling all the children back in on the first two days, as well as welcoming our new starters in Reception and other year groups. The start of a new school year is one filled with such optimism and renewed energy and I am excited for what the new school year will bring. Staff and I look forward to sharing our plans for the year with you in due course.

Best wishes,

Clare Talbot

Headteacher