



Benwick Primary School

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September 2020 Re-opening Questions & Answers

Dear Parents & Carers,

As you will know from previous letters we are looking forward to welcoming all children back in September. We know that parents and families will have lots of questions about the re-opening of school in September. We have used the Government Guidance to develop an action plan and carry out a risk assessment. This is available on the school website, on the 'Covid 19' page; it has been approved both by our Governors and the Local Authority. To help parents and families understand our expectations and the actions we are taking to help keep everyone safe, the information below summarises the main points in the risk assessment. It is very long, but all information is essential!

When will the children start back at school?

- Children in Years 1 to 6 will start back at school on Monday 7th September.
- The new children who are joining Reception will start school on Monday 7th September at 1.15pm.

Do they need to wear uniform?

- Yes, we expect all children to wear full uniform. We aim to encourage children to feel pride and a sense of belonging to the Benwick Primary School community by wearing their uniform. The school uniform consists of:
Dark green sweatshirt or sweat cardigan with school emblem; White polo shirt or white shirt/blouse; Grey/black trousers, pinafore, skirt or shorts; Green gingham dress in summer; Grey/black/white socks Black shoes/closed sandals (Please note tracksuits bottoms should be worn with PE kit only).
- Children will need their PE kits straight away. PE kits should be left in school all week.
- Children are permitted to bring a bag to school however, they are not allowed to bring unnecessary items from home. They must only bring a water bottle, PE kits, suncream, sunhat, lunch box/bag; all items MUST have your child's name clearly marked on them.

How should we travel to and from school?

- We encourage all parents to walk or cycle to school to reduce congestion, help the local environment and improve the children's fitness.
- Children in Years 5&6 and may walk to and from school alone, we will need written permission from parents for the end of the day - please email this to the office.

What measures are in place to reduce mass gatherings of parents and children at the start and end of school?

- Staggered start and finish times will be applied for all children. To make this easier for everyone, we have divided all children in to 3 groups alphabetically by surname so that you can drop off and collect all your children at the same time. We have kept these time slots quite narrow as we know later starts would be inconvenient for many parents, we hope they will work well, however will review this after a week or so and if necessary may have to extend the slots to maintain the social distancing.
- Parents (1 only from each family) must not congregate on or around the school site before or after school. All adults must always maintain social distancing to reduce the chance of transmitting the virus and because they are role models for the children about how to behave in public places.
- Adults waiting to collect children from Doves, Owls & Swans should wait in the main carpark. Parents/Carers are not allowed in the school building at the moment.
- It is essential that all children arrive and leave at their designated start or finish time.
- Any pre-school children should be kept close to the adult with them.

Where and when will I drop-off or collect my child from?

Start times:	End of Day times:
8.45 A-H Surnames 8.50 I-P Surnames 8.55 Q-Z Surnames	3.00 A-H Surnames 3.05 I-P Surnames 3.10 Q-Z Surnames
Where: Robins: Use side gate in to Robins outdoor area (we will signpost this) Doves: Metal railings inside main gate Owls & Swans: Main gate	Where: Robins: Use side gate in to Robins outdoor area Doves, Owls & Swans: Main gate car park area

What hygiene measures are in place?

What are you doing to keep the school clean?

- We have implemented regular surface cleaning regimes in each classroom, including cleaning products and equipment. Surfaces are cleaned regularly and all equipment is cleaned in between use.
- We have removed lots of the equipment and items from the rooms to ensure surfaces are easily cleaned.
- Most soft furnishings have been removed from classrooms.
- Children are expected to wash their hands multiple times throughout the day; members of staff will be available to support and supervise handwashing where it is appropriate, and we have visual reminders in all the toilets and sink areas about good handwashing.
- We have plenty of tissues and will remind children of 'catch it, bin it, kill it' messages for nasal hygiene.
- We have supplies of hand-gel throughout the school and children are expected to use this regularly (in addition to handwashing).

How will you make sure children are socially distant with each other?

- Children have been organised into class groups that will stay with each other for most of their time in school. You may have heard them being referred to as 'bubbles'.
- Playtimes will be staggered so that fewer children are outside their classrooms at the same time.
- Each class bubble will have their own play equipment at play and lunchtime, their supervising adult will initiate non-contact games with the children.
- We recognise that social distancing with the younger children is a challenge so we will remind them regularly about it, but we cannot guarantee that it can be maintained at all times. The government guidance states that schools do not need to insist on social distancing with the younger children (Reception/Y1). We want our children to learn through play and interaction with others.

How will staff social distance?

- Staff will continue to maintain 1m+ social distancing wherever possible. Our staffroom will not be used for staff to congregate and our school office is out of bounds to all but a few members of our team.
- We will not allow visitors or parents into the school building to maintain good social distancing, however we are still available to talk to parents either over the phone, email or online meetings such as Teams or Zoom.

What will the classrooms look like?

- The classrooms do look more sparse than they usually do, this is so that the surfaces are easily cleaned.
- In Years 1 to 6, the desks have been arranged into front facing rows. Children will be able to sit next to each other, however we will still promote 'no intentional physical contact' with others.
- Teachers are planning learning activities that reduce the need for close face to face interaction.
- Adults will give feedback to the children at the adults' level rather than the adult moving to the child's level.
- In Robins we will allow a more 'free flow' approach to the provision so that the children can learn through play.
- In Doves, the children will sit in front facing rows. They will be allowed to sit on the carpet in small groups but will be expected to distance themselves as much as possible.

What equipment will be available to the children? What will they need to bring from home?

- All children will be given their own basic equipment etc because they are not allowed to share equipment such as pens and pencils.
- Any equipment that does need to be shared will be cleaned thoroughly in between uses.
- Children will be expected to bring a named water bottle to school. Water fountains are not available for use.
- Reading books will be sent home once per week. They will be cleaned after they have been returned and will only be permitted to go back onto bookshelves after 72 hours.
- Children MUST have their kit for PE
- Children may bring a packed lunch bag/box – named please

Do the normal rules and expectations still apply?

- Absolutely! We have very high expectations for behaviour and attitude and this will be more important than ever. Some children may need additional support and guidance to meet the expectations and staff will support them in this.
 - It would be very useful for parents to begin to talk to their child about the school expectations and routines before the start of the Autumn Term particularly if the routine at home has not been maintained during the recent closure.
 - If the bedtime routine has not been maintained, we strongly recommend parents begin to re-establish this important routine as soon as possible.

How will you make sure the children settle into their new class and teachers?

- Teachers have made welcome videos for the children available on the 'Classes' page of our website.
- The activities for the first two days of term have been planned to support the transition for everyone. We understand lots of our children will not have been in school for several months, so the teachers are planning to take their time to make sure the children can settle in. The children will revisit our school values and expectations including the new rules and routines in place.
- Our curriculum has been planned to motivate and engage children in their learning and support them at their current level.

How will you help the children to 'catch up'?

- Our priority initially will be around wellbeing and health.
- When the children have settled in, their teachers will informally assess them and will plan support for anyone who needs additional help in Reading, Writing and Maths.
- All teachers and leaders have reviewed the curriculum and adjusted our plans so that it enables the children to repeat aspects they may need to, but also supports rapid progress.
- Optional holiday activities are available on our website under Learning at home.

What will happen at lunchtime?

- Hot lunches are available for everyone as usual – the menu has been emailed to all parents and is on our website.
- Robins will eat in the canteen, all other classes will eat in their classrooms
 - Children can bring a packed lunch; parents must ensure the lunch box is cleaned thoroughly every day.
- We do encourage all children to have a school meal because they are fresh, well balanced with locally produced ingredients; the menu has been revised to make it 'classroom friendly' and we are sure the children will enjoy it!
 - Lunchtime will be staggered and children will remain in their own class bubbles at all times as this is the safest way.

What happens if a child gets ill in my child's class bubble?

- No child or adult showing signs of infection are allowed on the premises.
- Staff and pupils are required to have immediate tests if they show symptoms. If a child is sent home with symptoms, we expect parents to arrange a test for the child. We will request evidence of a negative test result (i.e. the text message from the NHS) before the child is allowed back to school.

- Any child who displays any symptoms of Covid must be collected immediately and we expect parents and families to make provision if they are not based in the local area during the school day. When the child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door with a window. The adult supervising the child will wear full PPE clothing when dealing with a suspected case; this includes a face mask, face shield/ visor, apron and gloves.

What if my child, or one of our family members, becomes ill?

- If any child in school tests positive for Covid, every child and member of staff in their group will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. The spaces where that child has been based will be closed for 72 hours, then a deep clean will be undertaken.
- If a member of a child's household tests positive for Covid, the child and the household members must self-isolate for 14 days. The other children and staff in the child's group do not have to self-isolate.

What if I live with an extremely clinically vulnerable household member? What if my child is still shielding?

- If any families have a household member who will continue to shield after the 1st August, please contact the school office before the end of term so that an appropriate risk assessment can be carried out.
 - The government guidance states that all children will be expected to attend school from September and we want to work with any parents/carers who are worried to reassure them that we are doing everything possible to keep the community safe.
- If you do have any questions, please contact the school office in the first instance.

I will be in touch again towards the end of the holiday, following scheduled Government updates regarding school opening in Mid-August. I will also issue a 'basic information' sheet just before school starts back as a reminder of just key information.

Thank you for reading this very long information sheet, we appreciate your continued support in keeping everyone safe!

Best wishes,

Clare Talbot
Headteacher