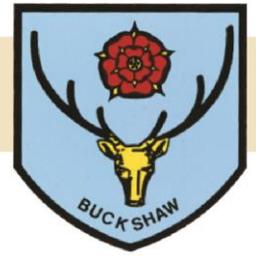


Buckshaw Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs K Brooks



Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the government announcement on Monday schools will reopen from the 8th March 2021 and ALL pupils should attend. We will be operating in school as we were in the Autumn Term 2020 replicating the procedures we had in place then, with all the strict social distancing and hygiene practices adhered to.

I know you will have heard a lot of talk about schools returning so I thought it would be useful to clarify all the key points in one letter.

All children in year groups Nursery-Y6, will be expected to return to school full time from Monday 8th March 2021.

The scientific evidence shows that coronavirus (COVID-19) presents a much lower risk to children than adults of becoming severely ill. There is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than adults. However, there will still be risks while coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community. To manage the risks, things will be different when the children return to school. We have put in place a range of protective measures to help reduce the risks.

Attendance at school

It is vital that children return to school for their educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development. School attendance will be mandatory from the 8th March 2021. This means that it is your legal duty as a parent to send your child (if they are of compulsory school age) to school regularly.

Local authorities and schools have a range of legal powers to enforce attendance if a child or young person misses school without a valid reason.

We understand that some children may have found this lockdown exceptionally difficult and staff are prepared for this.

Self-isolation and shielding

A small number of children may be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they:

- are self-isolating
- have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)

If your child is unable to attend school for these reasons, they will be expected to engage in remote education provided by their class teacher.

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Children under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school. If children are not able to attend school because they are following clinical and/or public health advice, you will not be penalised and must inform school office.

Protective measures in school to ensure our environment and people within it are as safe as possible

Buckshaw Primary School has created our own health and safety risk assessment as part of our planning for the Spring Term (this is still available on our school website). This has been approved by Governors and Advisers within Lancashire Authority.

The risk assessment covers controls around:

Personal hygiene

Cleaning of premises

Minimizing contacts throughout school

In line with this risk assessment school will:

- manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in school, in line with current public health guidance - this means your child may be asked to self-isolate for 10 days (following advice from our local health protection teams) if they have been in close, face to face contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus
- ensure that everyone cleans their hands more often than usual, including when they arrive, when they return from breaks, and before and after eating - this should be done for 20 seconds with soap and running water or hand sanitiser
- promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach, to ensure good respiratory hygiene
- enhance cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often

School will minimise contact and encourage maintaining distance as far as possible. This will involve asking children and young people to:

- stay within their year groups
- maintain distance between individuals

We know that younger children may not be able to maintain social distancing. It is likely that for younger children the emphasis will be on separating groups, and for older children, it will be on distancing.

Actions you can take

Do not send your child to school if:

- they are showing coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- someone in their household is showing symptoms

Arrange a test if you or your child develops symptoms. Inform school of the results. If the test is positive, follow guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.

It is really important that you help our school to implement these actions by following the advice set out here and wider public health advice and guidance. School can support you through this process if you are unsure.

- Parents/carers are requested not to enter school unless absolutely necessary and by appointment only. When it is necessary for parent/carer to enter the school building they will be instructed to follow handwashing and social distancing guidelines
- Arrangements are in place for parents/carers to drop off and collect children at specified times, without physically entering the premises Please ensure that you stick to these times and arrangements
- **Only one parent should accompany their child to the school gate (even when adhering to social distancing).**

Face coverings

We request that all adults who collect and drop off children wear suitable face coverings when entering the school grounds unless they are exempt.

Following the new operational guidance for schools issued this week, it is recommended that; *'face coverings should be worn by staff and adult visitors in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible (when moving around corridors and communal areas). Children in primary schools do not need to wear a face covering'*.

The guidance relating to face coverings will be revised at Easter.

Arriving and leaving school

We will continue to stagger start and finish times. This helps keep groups apart as they arrive and leave the premises. This does not reduce the amount of time spent teaching and learning. Please note; parents (with parking permits) will not be able to park on the school car park until further notice.

NURSERY/EYFS/KS1

YR	STAFF	ARRIVAL	Designated indoor areas for learning	COLLECTION
NURSERY	Mr J Manchester Mrs Clarke Mrs Warrington Mrs Whittaker	Through car park, between 8.45-8.55am to start at 9am	Nursery	3.00 through car park and leave via Judeland gate
EYFS	Mrs J Robinson Mrs Sharples Mrs Rivers	Through car park, between 8.45-8.55am for lessons to start at 9am	Reception	3.05 through car park and leave via Judeland gate
Y1	Mrs S Gornall Miss Jackson	Through car park, between 8.45-8.55am for lessons to start at 9am	Y2 and KS1 resource area	3.10 through car park and leave via Judeland gate
Y2	Mr D Worswick Miss Reynolds Mrs Hoyle	Through car park, between 8.45-8.55am for lessons to start at 9am	Y1 and Nurture Room	3.15 through car park and leave via Judeland gate

KS2

YR	STAFF	ARRIVAL	Designated indoor areas for learning	FINISH
Y3	Mrs L Collins Mrs Paul	8.45-8.55am Great Meadow	Y3 & KS2 library	3.20 through car park and leave via Great Meadow
Y4	Mrs N Jackson Mrs Climpson	8.45-8.55am Great Meadow	Y4 & 6G	3.20 through car park and leave via Great Meadow
Y5	Mr M Babcock Miss Crowder	8.45-8.55am Great Meadow	Y5 & music room	3.15 through car park and leave via Great Meadow
Y6	Miss L Lockley Mrs Mensforth	8.45-8.55am Great Meadow	Y6 & Kids Club	3.15 through car park and leave via Great Meadow

If your child arrives later than the times stated (KS1 9am, KS2 8.55am) they will be marked as late.

School Uniform

We expect children to continue to wear their school uniform.

You do not need to clean uniforms differently or any more often than usual because of coronavirus (COVID-19).

School Food

Our school kitchen will still be fully open from the 8th March 2021.

We will provide food to all pupils who want it, including Free School Meals and Universal Infant Free School Meals as usual for those who are eligible. We will return on the 8th March to week 1 on the school lunch menu. We will continue to stagger lunchtimes to enable cleaning of the hall between each year group sitting.

Online Safety

Most people, including children, have been spending more time online, whether that is in the classroom or at home. Please continue to be vigilant in the supervision of your child online.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

We understand that some children and young people may be experiencing feelings such as anxiety, stress or low mood as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We have integrated support for this through our daily curriculum. We will communicate with you if we feel that your child needs further support from any outside agencies.

Extra-Curricular Activities

School will run breakfast and after-school activities from the Spring Term. To ensure that these can be delivered in line with the wider guidance on protective measures, we will need to run things differently.

Out-of-school settings, such as after-school clubs, can open to children and young people of all ages. It remains important that they put protective measures in place to help reduce the risk of transmission.

To minimise risks, consider:

- sending your child to the same setting consistently
- limiting the number of different settings you access

Ask the organisation that runs the activity what they are doing differently to reduce any risks.

We will:

- Limit the spaces and operate strict booking in system – 18 for breakfast club and 20 for after school.
- Opening times remain the same to allow for cleaning down at the end of the session (7.50-8.45am for breakfast club and 3.15-5.45pm after school.)
- Parents are advised that they should only use Kids Club to support them to work, if a parent has a medical appointment, or if there are no other child care options available to them.

We will accept Kids Club Bookings on a first come, first served basis from Monday 1st March. You can book by ringing the school office

Local outbreaks

Buckshaw Primary School will contact their local health protection team if we:

- have 2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) among pupils or staff within 14 days
- see an increase in children or staff absence rates due to suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19)

The local health protection team will advise what action is required. Usually, closure will not be necessary, but some groups may need to self-isolate.

If an outbreak in school is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched. They will test everyone who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will first focus on the person's class, followed by the whole school, if necessary.

If your local area sees a spike in infection rates that results in localised community spread, the government will decide what actions need to be taken.

School will provide remote education if:

- groups of pupils need to self-isolate
- a larger restriction of attendance at school is needed

Please see the next page for frequently asked questions.

If you have any questions in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact the school office on 01257 418862. Thank you once again for your continued support and understanding through this challenging period. The continued relationship we have with our parents, carers and community has enabled our school to continue to educate without much disruption, especially in the Autumn Term without having any bubble closures. We hope this good practice continues throughout the rest of the academic year.

The staff are all looking forward to having the pupils back in school on the 8th March 2021!

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Brooks
Headteacher

FAQ – CHILDREN'S RETURN TO SCHOOL.

I am worried about how my child will react on returning to school, will I be able to take them in to settle them?

The advice for social distancing for adults remains the same, unfortunately parents are not able to come into the classroom or school. If you have any concerns, please contact your child's teacher via class Dojo. Our teachers are very creative with their approach to support children and will have thought about the best way to manage these situations to ensure the children's happiness and well-being.

What if my child is late for school?

It is vitally important you avoid being late for your child's drop off slot. Please contact the school office if you think you are going to be late. We ask that parents continue to bring their child to school if they are late. Upon arrival, please press the buzzer on the pedestrian gate (Great Meadow gate), a member of staff will then come out to greet your child, sign them in and escort to their classroom.

What if we are late to collect my child at the end of the school day?

Please contact school as soon as you know you are held up. Usually, when this situation occurs we would put your child into Kids Club, however this will not be possible. Your child will be kept for the time you expect to be late.

Can I send someone else to drop off/pick up my child?

If you have another responsible person in your bubble, e.g. grandparent, they are permitted to escort your child to and from school.

What can my child bring into school?

Due to space and other restrictions we ask that children only bring the following into school:

- Coat
- Water bottle
- PE kit including old trainers or wellies (to be left in school)
- If your child is not having a school lunch, they can bring their home packed lunch in a labelled lunchbox.
- If your child is prone to accidents we ask a spare set of clothes are brought in and kept in school

How do I contact school if my child shows symptoms, or is ill?

We encourage parents to report any absence via the school app (Parent Connect), alternatively ring school (option 1) and leave a message. School will contact you if they have any questions.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?

We have a robust risk assessment in place, in line with government guidance, that sets out the next steps if this happens. Staff and children over 5 in all settings will be eligible for testing if they become ill with coronavirus symptoms, as will members of their household.