

To All Parents and Carers

Thursday 21 May 2020

BRUNSWICK PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL: PLANS FOR WELCOMING MORE CHILDREN BACK FROM 1 JUNE

Dear Parents and Carers

On behalf of the staff at Brunswick I hope you are safe and well. I begin this letter with thanks to all those parents and carers of children in the EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 who completed our online survey about the prospect of returning to school. The response rate was extremely high, so the results have been invaluable in helping us plan for the children's return. The survey shows that 45% of respondents are not yet willing to return their children to school and that 24% are. The remaining 31% are undecided.

What follows is a necessarily long letter that I need to you read to the end, as its purpose is to ensure you are informed fully of Brunswick's plans for welcoming more children back to school *from* 1 June in accordance with those plans made by Government.

I am sure you are aware, the Government's plan is that **from** 1 June, schools will, in stages, begin to reopen to more children. It has decided that the Year Groups involved in the first stages of reopening will be EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6. It has also decided that children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 who have parents who are Critical or Key Workers, or who have already been identified by the school as needing a childcare place will continue to come to school.

Survey results told us overwhelmingly that you are concerned about the children's safety if they return. Staff are also concerned about theirs. Our plans are based upon minimising risk to *everyone* in school and on maintaining a safe environment. They are stringent, and based upon general principles that must be understood and followed without exception. They are put in place to protect everyone who uses the school and to help build trust and confidence. **Staff from the Inclusion Team will contact parents and carers of children with EHCPs or SEND separately, as plans for their children's return are individual and different from those set out below.**

Monday 1 June and Tuesday 2 June are now INSET (In-Service Training) Days. This time has been set aside for staff to complete setting up the school in accordance with Government Guidance and for additional training in how to work safely in line with it. School is closed to all pupils on those days apart from children attending Reduced Provision for Critical and Key Workers and those identified by the school as needing a childcare place.



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Brunswick Park’s phased reopening will begin on WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE and will start with children in RECEPTION ONLY. The reasons why children in Reception are planned to return first are:

- a. The classrooms connect directly to an outdoor play area;
- b. There are toilets and handwashing facilities very close to the classrooms;
- c. The areas the children will use are self-contained so are the most straightforward to keep clean;
- d. The children can return to familiar classrooms;
- e. Reception is the first year of statutory education, and sets children up for the rest of their school careers. In proportion to their age children in Reception have missed the most school, and of all our children they need school the most to learn and establish the skills of playing, social interaction and communication.

Survey results told us that parents feel children in Reception and some in Year 1 need resettling in school because of the prolonged time they have been away without their friends. We have planned for children in Reception to come to school for half day sessions only for a minimum of the first 3 days. At the end of every week we will review how well it has gone, and adjust our plans accordingly. Reception will be the only Year Group in school apart from the children in Reduced Provision, for the first two weeks to allow the children to settle and for staff to ensure that all the systems put in place throughout the school to reduce risk and keep everyone safe run smoothly before more children arrive.

Year Group	Date of return to school	Staff	Classroom and toilets	Floor	Start and finish times
Reception Bubble 1	3.6.20 Half days for first week, pick up 12.30	Jude and Lynn	Ruby Reception toilets, ground floor	Ground floor	9.00 – 3.10 KS1 Gate
Reception Bubble 2	3.6.20 Half days for first week, pick up 12.45	Helen and Jackie	Crimson, Reception toilets, ground floor	Ground floor	9.15-3.20 KS1 Gate
Reception Bubble 3	3.6.20 Half days for first week, pick up 1.00	Chantelle and Donna	Scarlet Reception toilets, ground floor	Ground floor	9.30-3.30 KS1 Gate

Pupils in Year 6 will return from Monday 15 June.

Pupils in Year 1 will return for Half Days from Monday 22 June, and for Full Days from Monday 29 June.

Parents and Carers of pupils in these Year Groups will be contacted after Half Term with further details of Protective Bubbles and Class Groups, and start and finish times.

Our risk assessments and survey show that it is not appropriate to reopen our Nursery this term, as parents would prefer to keep their children at home, operating part-time Nursery increases the number of adults on the premises to unsafe levels and we do not have a sufficient number of staff to open it in accordance with Government Guidance.

Social distancing:

Survey results told us parents are unsure about what social distancing means for children, and if they need to do it.

In accordance with Government Guidance, children in Reception and pupils in Year 1 will be assigned to a **Protective Bubble**. These Bubbles contain a maximum of 15 children and are cared for by 2 adults per Bubble. **CHILDREN IN RECEPTION AND YEAR 1 ARE NOT EXPECTED TO SOCIAL DISTANCE**, as they are too young. Instead, the same adults will work in each Bubble throughout the day, thereby minimising contact with other people in the building. As they are older, pupils in Year 6 are expected to make their best efforts to social distance where possible, and will be assigned to smaller class groups with a

maximum size of 15. They will remain in their class group throughout the day, with the same staff. Signage will be used throughout the school to remind children about this.

Remaining Plans and Requirements:

- **School will be closed to all pupils, apart from those in Reduced Provision, on Friday afternoons to allow for weekly deep cleaning. Children going home will be sent with a grab and go packed lunch unless they normally bring their own, and the expectation is that on Friday afternoons they will do home learning.** For teaching staff this time is for Planning, Preparation and Assessment.
- There will be staggered starts, break times, lunchtimes and home times throughout the day and parents must not drop off or collect children at times other than those detailed in the table.
- Children who are not well and are showing symptoms of COVID-19 must not attend school and should self-isolate for a minimum of 7 days, with household members self-isolating for 14 days.
- Children who are well but are part of a household that is self-isolating must not attend school during that period.
- If a child starts to feel unwell at school and in particular if they are showing COVID-19 symptoms they will be isolated from everyone else and we will expect them to be collected **immediately**.
- All children and school workers can now access testing if they are showing symptoms. If a child is tested for COVID-19 and the test is positive, parents must contact the school immediately as the rest of the child's class group will also have to self-isolate. If there are any confirmed cases we will liaise with Public Health England for further guidance and advice.
- Stringent handwashing and hygiene practices ('Catch it, bin it, kill it!') will be in place throughout the day. Staff will also clean down surfaces and door handles regularly throughout the day in addition to the daily cleaning already in place.
- Although you may choose for your child to wear PPE on the way to school, the Department for Education does not recommend its use in schools unless a member of staff is supervising a child who has been isolated and is waiting to be collected. Children and staff at Brunswick will not wear masks or gloves in any other circumstance; instead they will practise good hygiene and regular handwashing as the most effective ways of minimising the spread of infection. Some staff may wear a transparent face shield. This is their choice, and is permitted because children can see all of the face through it easily.
- Government guidance includes the advice that clothes should be washed regularly. **School uniform is encouraged**, but if frequent washing means you do not have enough, children may wear their own clothes.
- Parents will not be allowed onto the site unless they have made a prior arrangement by telephone. School staff will collect and deliver children to the gates and in order to minimise social contact between adults not from the same household we insist that you follow the timings strictly and that you do not gather and remain by the school entrance at other times. **We also ask that only one adult bring your child to school.**
- There will be no more than 15 children in any designated classroom at any time. Some of the children returning will not be in their usual classrooms or taught by their usual teachers. We understand it may be unsettling for the children at first but will not last long. All our staff focus on care and support.
- When in the classroom and the Dining Hall (Brunswick Bistro), furniture will be arranged so that wherever possible there is a 2 metre distance between children and staff, accepting that social distancing will not always be possible.
- We will control movement around the building so that there is minimal contact between groups and will use external entrances to classrooms wherever possible. The playground will be zoned into different areas and children will be given a specific space to be with their group.
- We will not be offering Breakfast Club, After School Club or Extra Curricular Activities until further notice to avoid mixing up Bubbles and class groups.
- Although you may have more than one child where one is eligible to return and the others are not, we cannot accommodate children from other Year Groups (N, 2, 3, 4 or 5) unless we have

identified they will benefit from being at school or if you are a Critical or Key Worker and you do not have any other safe alternative.

- Home Learning will continue for Nursery children and pupils in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5. The teachers for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will continue to send Home Learning for any children who do not return.
- As all thorough planners do, we have planned for the worst, hoping for the best. We need parents and carers to accept that our plans are subject to review and change at short notice, and that any changes made will always be in the interests of pupil and adult safety and following national guidelines.

Although this letter is clear about our plans and the need to be firm in the way they are carried out, we fully understand that you as parents and carers have views and opinions about keeping your children safe. I hope you find our plans reassuring and our explanations for them helpful, but we also understand that some of you do not yet feel confident to send your children back to school. **Parents and carers who choose not to send their children back to school will not be penalised in any way.** As all the teachers will be continuing to send Home Learning, it is our aim that children will not be disadvantaged significantly if they do not attend.

For those children returning, our focus will be on reintroducing them to school life and routine, and on providing activities that reflect their need for emotional wellbeing.

If you have been receiving Edenred vouchers this will continue if you are eligible and your child is not attending school. If your child attends school, s/he will be given lunch as usual.

On a final note, you will notice that Joshua Bowdery is not on the timetable for Reception. He is due to become a father at any time, so will be working from home then when the baby arrives will be going on paternity leave. We wish him and his partner well at this rather different time to arrive in the world.

Thank you for persevering to the end of this letter and for reading the large amount of information I have to share with you. Have a safe, healthy and peaceful Half Term Break, and we look forward to seeing our Reception children on Wednesday 3 June.

Yours sincerely



Susannah Bellingham
Head Teacher