

Returning to School on 8th March 2021– Information for Parents and Carers.

Dear Parents and Carers

We are so pleased that we are finally able to welcome all of the Brookland children back to school on 8th March 2021. We are really looking forward to seeing you all. All year groups will return.

After nearly a year of managing Covid-19 in school, we are still in the position where we haven't had to close bubbles to manage cases. I hope that with your continued support that we can continue this so that we can reduce as far as possible the amount of time children are missing school. It is only by our whole school community engaging in these measures that we will achieve this, so I thank you in advance.

Much of the measures that were in place in September, remain in place but we have made some changes so I would ask parents to read the information carefully.

No one measure in isolation will make a significant difference but the combined impact of all these means that the school will continue to be as safe as we can possibly make it but is reliant on the whole school community continuing to follow them.

Children will **return to school in bubbles**, as before. However, we have made a slight adjustment in order to ensure that children receive the right provision moving forward. Instead of having four bubbles, **we have decided to run three bubbles**. These will be an **infant bubble, 3/4 and a 5/6**. The Key stage 2 bubbles will not mix during the school day, but there will be some mixing of reception, year 1 and year 2. This is to ensure that children in each of these year groups benefit from the best provision to move their learning forward. All years will continue to have staggered starts, finishes, playtime and lunches.

All **staff are lateral flow testing twice weekly** and report their results using the government website. The school is **engaged actively in the Track and Trace program**. We would expect all parents to follow the guidance relating to symptoms, isolation and track and trace.

Children should not be sent to school if they are unwell and should return once symptoms have stopped.

Coming to School and Going Home.

In order to maintain some form of social distancing at the start and end of the school day, we have continued with the staggered entry and exit times for each class. It is important that parents arrive at the correct times in order to avoid the crossover of bubbles.

As we have been doing since the children returned in January and because social distancing is challenging with so many parents in one place, we would kindly ask **that parents wear a face covering during drop off and collection**, in order to minimise the risks as much as possible.

Where parents are medically exempt from mask wearing or unable to, we would ask that you contact me at headteacher@brookland.kent.sch.uk and you will be allocated to the drop off and collection point location and time detailed below. This is to minimise your risk and the risk to the school community.

Face coverings adds another layer to the numerous measures in place to reduce community transmission, this can only benefit the school community further by reducing absences through infections or self-isolating, therefore optimising the time children spend in school.

Class 1 parents (Year R) should drop their children at the rear gate at 8.50 am and collect them from the rear entrance at 3.10 pm

Class 2 parents (Year 1 and 2) should **drop their children at the rear gate at 8.40 am** and **collect** them from the **rear entrance at 3.15 pm**.

Class 3 parents (Year 3 and 4) should **drop their children at the main gate at 8.50 am** and **collect** them from the **main entrance at 3.20 pm**.

Class 4 parents (Year 5 and 6) should **drop their children at the main gate at 8.40 am** and **collect** them from the **main entrance at 3.25 pm**

For **parents with a medical exemption or unable to** wear a face covering – we would ask that you bring your child to the **front entrance at 8.55 am** and collect from the **front entrance at 3.15 pm**.

Learning in the Classroom

Much of the rest of the year will be spent preparing children for their transition into their new year group in September.

Hygiene Measures will be applied to your child's learning environment

- All children will sit side by side, facing the front.
- Every child will wash their hands when they arrive and before they leave the classroom or the school.
- Every child will have a designated chair and work station.
- Children will have their own stationery kit, provided by the school.
- Furniture and equipment, along with high touch points will be cleaned regularly throughout the day.
- Soft furnishing, outside play equipment will be temporarily unavailable.
- Reading books will be placed in a special box and sanitised before it is passed on.
- The children will only work in their class 'bubbles'.
- Playtimes and lunchtimes will also be separate.
- Collective worship will be held outdoors with groups socially distanced.

Lunch

- We will be providing hot lunches for all children who would like one from the 8th March but these will be delivered to the bubbles in take away containers.
- All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 remain eligible for a Universal Free School Meal.
- All other children not having a hot dinner will need a packed lunch which will be eaten with their class bubble. These will either be eaten in the classroom or outside if the weather is nice.

Things to bring to school

- Children should **wear school uniform**.
- A packed lunch if that is what you have chosen to do.
- A water bottle with your name on it.
- A coat or jacket with your name on it.
- **On Tuesday – wear a PE kit with tracksuit and trainers.**
- Reading book.
- No pencil cases or items from home.

Play and Break Times

- The children will have staggered break times to avoid crossover.

- If in the juniors please provide a piece of fruit, vegetable or cheese for snack time. Infant snacks are provided.
- Play equipment will be limited.

Attendance

- Attendance for every child from March 8th becomes statutory again.
- The normal school absence policy and procedures apply.
- **If your child is unwell, they must not attend school.** Parents should contact the school office before 9.30am with details of your child's illness.
- The school will be engaging with the Track and Trace System.
- Guidance from Public Health England currently states that primary aged children should not wear face masks in school. (This will be reviewed as and when guidance is updated)
- If your child becomes unwell at school, we will call you straight away for you to collect them. The school has a designated area, following PHE guidelines. Parents will be directed to this when asked to collect.

The School Office

- Please call the school office, email or Dojo instead of visiting the office.
- Please do not pick up your child early from school. If you have an appointment that cannot be made out of school hours, you should call the school office so that arrangements can be made for collection. Please give as much notice as possible.

Extended School Provision

New guidance for wrap around care states (pg51) – 'you should advise parents that where they are accessing this provision for their children, that they must only be using this, where:

- The use of the provision is reasonably necessary to support them to work, seek work, undertake education or training, attend a medical appointment, address a medical need or attend a support group'
- Breakfast and After School Clubs will operate in the school hall.
- Breakfast Club will open at 7.45am.
- After School Club will be available until 6pm. (Please note the guidance above regarding uptake)
- 'Bubbles' will operate within wrap around care, with bubbles socially distancing from each other.
- We require at least 48 hours' notice for booking places, so that we can manage socially distanced numbers. Unfortunately, we cannot run a 'turn up on the day' Breakfast Club at the moment. We cannot guarantee that we can provide you a place.
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If you have any questions regarding your child's return to school, please do not hesitate to either phone, email or Dojo. I would be more than happy to speak to you.

We look forward to seeing you in the near future. When the children return to school, we would ask that bring any workbooks they have been using for home learning.

Please take care, stay safe, stay well.

Mr H and the Brookland Staff.