



Billingshurst Primary School

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Thursday 25th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Arrangements for full school re-opening 8th March 2021

I hope you are all well and that you had a much needed break at half term.

On Monday, the Department for Education published the [guidance](#) for all children to return to school on 8th March following the Prime Minister's statement. As the pandemic continues, schools are required to put certain measures in place to reduce the risk of infection and transmission of the virus to protect children, staff, parents and our wider school community. We have reviewed the guidance and updated the risk assessment. This letter explains the measures we are taking, many of which are the same as in the autumn term. The risk assessment is according to the current guidance published on the date of this letter and will be updated if that guidance changes.

The MOST IMPORTANT issue is you must not, under any circumstances, send your child in to school with a temperature, a new cough or with a loss of taste and smell, or if anyone in your household has these symptoms, however mild. Your child must be kept at home and isolated for 10 days. We would highly recommend that you have your child, or the person displaying symptoms, tested for COVID-19. If your child is found to be unwell at school, they will be isolated and you will be contacted to come and collect them. We would then ask you to get them tested.

There are now a number of broader symptoms associated with COVID so we ask you not to send your child in if they are unwell even if they are not displaying one of the three main symptoms. Keep them at home until they feel better or get them tested if they then display one of the three main symptoms.

We will continue to operate in year group 'bubbles' where mixing between bubbles is prevented, and the risk of the spread of any COVID-19 infection is reduced. We are too big to operate 21 class sized bubbles but within the year groups the classes will operate as separate bubble for the majority of time. They will have to mix as a year group at break times when they play outside but the risk of transmission outdoors is much lower than indoors. Children will not be able to mix when indoors so unfortunately there will be no hall assemblies, shared year group meetings, sharing work between classes, reading buddies, peer mentors or KS helpers until the guidance changes. There will also be no year group plays, productions or school visits.

All adults entering the school site MUST wear a mask, or a lanyard if you are exempt. You will be refused access if you do not comply with this. We understand some people are exempt – we just ask you to wear a lanyard that is visible to us.

In order to manage the seven bubbles that will be in operation, we will continue to stagger the start and finish of each day. It is absolutely vital that you and your child arrive at the correct time to prevent crossing bubbles. If you have siblings, you will be asked to take one through the relevant gate then wait on one of the two lower playgrounds before it is time to deliver the other child. At all times we require parents



and children to keep a 2m distance from other parents and families, and keep your child with you under your control at all times. We also ask that you leave the site as promptly as possible. Older children, where possible, should make their own way down the path to the classroom. Parents are not able to come into the school building and therefore you will need to contact us by email or telephone if you need to speak to someone or pass on a message. Please limit the equipment children bring in to school to their book bag, PE kits and lunch box. All children need to bring a water bottle into school with their name on.

Please also do not access the staff and visitor car park, or congregate at the school gate or in areas outside the school, especially the bus stop shelter. Please maintain your distance of at least 2m from other adults and families.

Staggered start and finish to school day:

	KS2 entrance	KS1 entrance
8.40	Year 4	Year 1
8.50	Year 5	Year 2
9.00	Year 6	Year 3
	Reception start time will be 9.10am	
	KS2 exit	KS1 exit
3.10	Year 4	Year 1
3.20	Year 5	Year 2
3.30	Year 6	Year 3
	Reception finish will be 3.00pm	

Year 3 will continue to come into school via the KS1 gate as they have done all year. We will also be staggering lunchtimes and break times. There is a one way system in school to ensure that social distancing can be supported.

We normally run a number of clubs, including choir. These will not be running until at least the summer term due to the issues of indoor sports, singing and the need to maintain the bubbles. If we were to offer a sports club, we would only be able to offer it to one year group. This would be impractical. Please also minimise your child's access to external providers outside school to limit the risk of infection in school and disruption to children's learning.

It is important to note that education again becomes a legal requirement from 8th March. If you have concerns about your child returning to school, do get in touch and we will do all we can to support you to return your child to school.

The full updated risk assessment will be available via the policies page of the website. On the Home page go to 'About Us' then scroll down to 'Policies'.

We look forward to welcoming all of you back on 8th March!

Yours sincerely



Helen Williamson
Headteacher

