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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great pleasure that I can share with you the most up to date information regarding the safe return for all our Bridgewater pupils from 7th September. We have been working throughout the summer to ensure that we are ready for the children and we cannot wait to see them! Home schooling has officially ceased (fingers crossed).

September Provision Key Information:

- School will reopen on **Monday 7th September**. Please note this is different to the original date on the school holiday list.
- School will be open to **ALL** pupils. Start and finish times will be staggered to reduce the amount of people arriving to school at any one time. They are as follows:

Class	Start	Finish
Nursery, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5	8.45am	3.15
Reception, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6	8.30am	3.00

- Please note that siblings can attend together at the most convenient time from 8.30am but should be collected again at the same time of 3.15pm.
- All children must arrive at school by 8.55am and be collected by 3.15pm.
- New to Nursery and Reception children have their own start dates and must only attend from this date.
- Protective measures will be in place following Government guidelines - including regular hand washing and classes will be in year group bubbles not mixing with other year groups. More details on these measures are below. A thorough **Risk Assessment, approved by the Local Authority**, is available via the school website.
- Attendance at school will **be statutory**. To support your child's return please see the guidance. Next year's staffing list and a link to each teacher's video were sent in July. Please do have a look at all of these documents to support your child's return.
- Unfortunately, we will **NOT** be providing Breakfast and After School Clubs in the first half of the Autumn Term. However, we endeavour to restart these as soon as we feel we can do so safely.
- Children will be required to **wear full school uniform**.

Safety Measures:

Bridgewater staff have been working hard to prepare the school so that social distancing can take place between children and staff ready for their return. The following measures have been put in place:

- Children and staff will be directed to wash/sanitise their hands regularly. Staff will remind children at regular intervals throughout the day about hand washing and respiratory hygiene.
- Children will be allocated a desk and chair and key equipment they will need.
- Children and where possible staff, will not mix with children in other groups during the day, but may have brief transitory contact whilst moving around the building, for example on the way to and from the playground.
- Staff will keep windows open in the classrooms whenever possible to allow ventilation.
- Staff will maintain a 2m distance from pupils whenever this is possible.
- There are one-way systems around school.
- A full curriculum will be offered to the children. Some activities, including those involving practical equipment, may not be possible. PE will take place during the week. **Children should come to school in their PE kit on their given day – suitable for outdoor weather.** Children will not be able to change in school at this time.
- Children will have outdoor break in a designated playground space for their year group bubble. We will limit the number of children eating in the hall at any one time and will not be holding any gatherings of large groups such as assemblies. Monday and Friday assemblies will be completed via an online program and children will stay in their classrooms.
- Children can bring school bags with essential equipment - water bottle, coat, packed lunch/snack. **They need to bring a water bottle to school as the water fountains will not be in use.** The teachers will provide each child with essential stationery items, which they will not share with others.
- Children who bring a packed lunch from home, in line with local authority advice, should do so in a disposable paper bag, not a lunchbox.
- Children should safely remove any face coverings **before** entering the school building.
- If a child complains of, or shows, any symptoms of ill health whilst in school, we will isolate them away from others, and contact parents to arrange for them to go home.
- Staff will only use PPE if they are required to supervise a child who is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.
- We will make every effort to ensure that the children are happy and comfortable in their new learning environment through our daily well-being lessons.
- All areas that are in use will be cleaned each evening following COVID-19 guidance for schools. Regularly used equipment and touch points will be cleaned throughout the day.

We ask that children and parents follow the principles below to ensure the safety of all:

Principles for Children

- **Tell an adult if you are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus/feeling unwell** - children will be informed of the symptoms of the virus in an age appropriate manner.
- **Following school instructions on hygiene, such as hand washing and sanitising** - all children at Bridgewater must be encouraged by staff to wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly (or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered).
- **Following instructions on who pupils can socialise with at school** - children will be grouped into year group bubbles. These bubbles will not mix with other bubbles once set. Each bubble will have a designated break time and space, and will have a designated entrance to use.
- **Moving around the school as per specific instructions (for example, one-way systems, out of bounds areas, queuing)** - children must use the entrances and routes around school specified for their group, which will be shared with them.

- **Expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoiding touching your mouth, nose and eyes with hands** - children must follow these expectations. Staff will provide regular reminders and posters in classrooms/toilets to reinforce this message about being 'Hands Free' – we do not touch each other.
- **Rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles** - At drinking fountains will not be in use and stationery items will be provided for personal use only. Children must not share these items. Staff will remind children daily.
- **Amended expectations about breaks or play times, including where children may or may not play** - each year group bubble will have a designated play space and time which will be communicated with them. Staff will ensure that these spaces and times are adhered to. Wet play will be in their allocated classroom.
- **Use of toilets - children** may use their designated toilets when needed however, staff will limit the number of children in toilet areas at any one time.
- **Clear rules about coughing or spitting at or towards any other person** - children will be reminded regularly by staff about the 'catch it, bin it kill it' expectations. Staff will explain that spitting is not allowed unless into a tissue which is then put into the bin, followed by the child washing their hands.
- **Clear rules for pupils at home about conduct in relation to remote education** - children will be expected to continue to engage in home learning if they unable to attend school.
- **Rewards and sanction system where appropriate** - staff will continue to use verbal praise. Stickers, certificates and postcards home will continue as usual.
- **Identify any reasonable adjustments that need to be made for students with more challenging behaviour** - risk assessments will be carried out for any child displaying more challenging behaviour on an individual basis.

Principles for Parents/Carers

- Children, young people, parents, carers or any visitors, such as suppliers, MUST not enter the school premises if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus (following the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection) and should access a test as soon as possible.
- Parents must inform school if their child is displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 so we can act accordingly to prevent the possible spread of the virus. Please be advised that we would have to close sections/all of school at short notice if we had any confirmed cases of COVID-19 from children or staff who attend.
- Parents must keep school informed if their contact details change.
- We ask that all children wear their school uniform and advise parents that they be washed regularly.
- Children MUST have a water bottle – no access to water fountains in school.
- If you pay for school meals this MUST be done via our new system Evolve – no cash payments will be accepted. More information to follow from Mrs Hill.
- If your child needs to be accompanied to school, only one parent should attend.
- We recommend that where possible children and their families walk to school following social distancing protocols.
- Parents should adhere to the allocated drop off and collection times. Please do NOT arrive before the allocated time and be on school premises. The school gates will be open just before admission time.
- Parents cannot gather at entrance gates or doors, or enter the building (unless they have a pre-arranged appointment).
- Parents must ensure 2m social distancing when speaking to staff at collection and drop off times.
- Parents should not visit the school office – office staff will accept calls or emails ONLY.

- We have made changes to our behaviour policy and ask that you discuss this with your child (full policy on school website).

COVID-19 Behaviour principles

In light of the need for children to behave differently when they return to school, the key changes to our behaviour policy are:

All children are required to and must:

- follow any altered routines for arrival or departure
- follow school's instructions on hygiene, such as hand washing and sanitising
- follow instructions on pupils they can socialise with at school
- follow school's expectations for moving around the school as per specific instructions (for example, one-way systems, out of bounds areas, queuing)
- follow expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoiding touching your mouth, nose and eyes with hands
- tell an adult immediately if they are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus
- follow rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles
- follow amended expectations about breaks or play times, including where children may or may not play
- follow safety rules when using school toilets
- follow clear rules about coughing or spitting at or towards any other person
- During this period of greater need to follow Government safety guidelines, in order to keep all children and staff safe, any child who does not follow the behaviour principles despite warning, will be isolated immediately from other children and parents will be contacted.

All documents, including a full Risk Assessment are available for your reference on the school's website on our COVID-19 information page for parents www.bridgewaterprimaryschool.co.uk

The DfE have published guidance for parents available via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

I look forward to seeing you and all the children on Monday 7th September.

Mrs Henderson

Stay alert. Control the virus. Save lives.