

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

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 **Monday 8th March**. All our teachers and support staff are really looking forward to seeing the children. Most procedures are the same as the Autumn term and are listed below -

**Key Information:**

- School will reopen on **Monday 8th March** to all pupils.
- 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:

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

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. Any children who are late will have to wait outside the main doors until a member of staff is available to take them to class at 9.15 and 9.30am only.
- 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.
- A thorough **Risk Assessment**, approved by the Local Authority, is available via the school website.
- **Attendance at school will be statutory.**
- We endeavour to restart Breakfast and Afterschool clubs as soon as we feel we can do so safely.
- Children will be required to **wear full school uniform.**
- 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.
- Parents should order and pay (unless entitled to Free School Meals) for school meals as they usually do via the Evolve system. **Any child who does not have a food order placed will receive a default meal.** Children may bring a packed lunch if parents prefer.

**Safety Measures:**

The following measures will be 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. The teachers will provide each child with essential stationery items, which they will not share with others.
- 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 good ventilation.

- Staff will maintain a 2m distance from pupils whenever this is possible.
- There are one-way systems around school.
- 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 should only bring essential equipment to school- water bottle, coat, packed lunch/snack.
- 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 learning environment.
- 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.
- Follow 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).
- Follow 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. Wet play will be in their allocated classroom.
- 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.
- Follow expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoiding touching your mouth, nose and eyes with hands. Staff will provide regular reminders and posters in classrooms/toilets to reinforce this message about being 'Hands Free' – we do not touch each other.
- Follow rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles.
- Use only allocated toilets - children may use their designated toilets when needed. Staff will limit the number of children in toilet areas at any one time.
- Children will be reminded regularly by staff about the 'catch it, bin it kill it' expectations.
- Children will be expected to continue to engage in home learning if they unable to attend school directly related to COVID-19.

### 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.
- Parents must send their child to school in full school uniform.
- If you pay for school meals this **MUST** be done via our new system Evolve – no cash payments will be accepted.
- If your child needs to be accompanied to school, only one parent should attend and **MUST wear a face covering while on school premises**. If you are exempt from wearing a face covering you must have your exemption card available for staff or you may be asked to wait until the playground is clear before entering the premises.
- We recommend that where possible children and their families walk to school following social distancing protocols.



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- 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 must not gather at entrance gates or doors, or enter the building (unless they have a prearranged 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.

### 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

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

<http://www.bridgewaterprimaryschool.co.uk/covid-19-parent-updates/>

The DfE have published updated 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>

Our weekly 'Well Done' video can be accessed here - <https://youtu.be/NOHdXkgugz4>

If you have questions about this information, please contact the school via email and a member of staff will contact you. I look forward to seeing you and all the children on **Monday 8th March**.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E Henderson



Accredited by Elklan, OCNSWR and Afsaic as

