

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September

**RE:** Full reopening of Blisland Primary Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents,

We are sincerely happy and excited about welcoming all children back to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. I am so pleased that we are able to welcome you back into school and hope that you are filled with anticipation and enthusiasm too. From Monday, to ensure thorough learning is achieved while maintaining and maximising safety procedures, we will be operating **2 'bubbles'** between 3 rooms. We will also implement staggered drop-off and pick-up times to ensure safe physical distancing is in place. These staggered times will be organised in **2 populations (A = Early and B = Late)** so that adults will not have to wait to drop or pick up siblings. If your child/children is dropped earlier, they will be picked up earlier and if it they are the later drop-off, they will be the later pick-up.

Please see below the overview for September 2020:

**Bubble 1 (Nursery, Reception, KS1):**

Staff linked to this bubble:

- Andrea Harrison, Charlotte Powdrill, Julie Pearce, Hannah Cullip (formally Steed) and Lily Woods

Classroom Bubble/Bubbles:

This group will be based in the main building most of the day. (Nursery will be in the EYFS unit all day, reception will join this environment part way through the morning – reception will spend more time here initially to help with settling back in). This bubble, from September, will be in the classroom next door to the current KS1 classroom. It has been newly organised and is ready for the children's arrival.

- Arrival – children will arrive in staggered intervals (this will have to be done in population groups to aid physical distancing)
- Nursery may arrive and depart according to the agreed hours (please click the link for details for dropping off) <https://www.blislandprimary.co.uk/Class/Nursery>
- Children will enter and exit through the side door nearest the reception playground (Please click the link to see a video which may be helpful: <https://www.blislandprimary.co.uk/Class/Kensa> ). Signs will also direct and instruct you. As these children are younger, we will allow you to drop-off in the playground – please follow guidance which will be displayed. **(Unfortunately, parents will not be allowed into the school buildings)**
- Children will wash their hands at the sink in the class for 20-seconds upon arrival.
- Toilets –the current boy's toilet will become Bubble 1 toilets. A maximum of two children to go at a time (they must be of the same gender)

- Break time – children will not necessarily need to have staggered breaks as we have playgrounds which can be separate
- Lunch time – Lunch will be staggered at a different point to Bubble 2 to allow for delivery of meals; ensuring staff cover for lunch breaks
- Reception and Nursery from Bubble 1 will eat in the canteen adjoined to the EYFS building; Years 1 and 2 will eat in their classroom – lunches will be packed lunches for the 1<sup>st</sup> half term provided by caterlink
- End of the day – children will be picked up in staggered intervals depending on when they arrive i.e child arrives earlier, they leave earlier, later = later.
- Timings:

Early arrival = 8.40am Early departure = 3.00pm

Later arrival = 9.00am Later departure = 3.20pm

### **Fridays:**

Early arrival = 8.40am Early departure = 12.40pm

Later arrival = 9.00am Later departure = 1.00pm

Lunch = 11.45am – 1.00pm

- Assemblies – we will have 2 assemblies a week using 'Microsoft Teams' to link our two bubbles.
- Handwashing: it is a priority that children wash hands regularly between transitions of work, moving from inside and outside (visa-versa), after using toilets, before and after eating. (Please do keep an eye on your child's skin in case it becomes aggravated from all the handwashing – moisturiser and water are useful remedies but do consult your GP if you are concerned)
- Coughing and sneezing – because little children do sneeze occasionally – we will promote catch-it kill-it bin-it. Children will be given tissues and tissues will be placed around the room. Children will wash hands after sneezing and coughing – we will promote sneezing and coughing into elbows.
- The classroom will be laid out in a way that maximises space and distancing but as the children are in a bubble, they will be in close contact with each other.
- Catch-up: as many of the children have perhaps missed access to some learning over this period, measures and interventions are being put in place to mitigate the impact of missed educational opportunity. We will identify areas that children need further support with and address these in a group-by-group or child-by-child basis. We will also send work home that we think could be beneficial to support the catch-up work we are doing in school

### **Bubble 2 (KS2 (Year 3-6):**

(Some of the information is the same or similar to Bubble 1)

Staff linked to this bubble:

- Matt Avery, Charlotte Powdrill and Kathy Chalkly

#### Classroom Bubble/Bubbles:

This group will be based in the main building all day. This bubble, from September, will be in the classroom next door to the current KS2 classroom. It has been newly organised and is ready for the children's arrival.

- Arrival – children will arrive in staggered intervals (this will have to be done in population groups to aid physical distancing) Children will enter and exit through the normal main entrance (Please click the link to watch a video which may be helpful: <https://www.blislandprimary.co.uk/Class/Nessa> ). Children in years 4-6 should be dropped at the bottom of the steps – if you have a child in Bubble 1 as well, you may walk with them up the steps but then allow your child to make their own way to the main entrance (**Unfortunately, parents will not be allowed into the school buildings**) Children in Y3, as this is a completely new change joining Key Stage 2, may have one adult walk them to the main playground before departing
- Children will wash their hands at the sink in the toilets for 20-seconds upon arrival.
- Toilets –the current girl's toilet will become Bubble 2 toilets. A maximum of two children to go at a time (they must be of the same gender)
- Break time – children will not necessarily need to have staggered breaks as we have playgrounds which can be separate
- Lunch time – Lunch will be staggered at a different point to Bubble 1 to allow for delivery of meals, ensuring staff cover for lunch breaks
- Children from Bubble 2 will eat in their classroom – lunches will be packed lunches for the 1<sup>st</sup> half term provided by caterlink charged at £2.49 or provide by yourselves
- End of the day – children will be picked up in staggered intervals depending on when they arrive i.e child arrives earlier, they leave earlier, later = later.
- Timings:

Early arrival = 8.40am Early departure = 3.00pm

Later arrival = 9.00am Later departure = 3.20pm

#### **Fridays:**

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Later arrival = 9.00am Later departure = 1.00pm

Lunch = 12.00pm – 1.00pm

- Assemblies – we will have 2 assemblies a week using 'Microsoft Teams' to link our two bubbles.
- Handwashing: it is priority that children wash hands regularly between transitions of work, moving from inside and outside (visa-versa), after using

toilets, before and after eating. (Please do keep an eye on your child's skin in case it becomes aggravated from all the handwashing – moisturiser and water are useful remedies but do consult your GP if you are concerned)

- Coughing and sneezing – because little children do sneeze occasionally – we will promote catch-it kill-it bin-it. Children will be given tissues and tissues will be placed around the room. Children will wash hands after sneezing and coughing – we will promote sneezing and coughing into elbows.
- The classroom will be laid out in a way that maximises space and distancing but as the children are in a bubble, they will be in close contact with each other.
- Catch-up: as many of the children have perhaps missed access to some learning over this period, measures and interventions are being put in place to mitigate the impact of missed educational opportunity. We will identify areas that children need further support with and address these in a group-by-group or child-by-child basis. We will also send work home that we think could be beneficial to support the catch-up work we are doing in school

### **PPE and Face masks:**

We ask that children do not wear face masks when attending school. The risks of spreading and catching coronavirus by children in primary school is small and young children are more likely to take their masks on and off which could spread droplets more by doing so. At times, adults in school may use PPE for the following reasons:

- To attend to children who require first aid or need intimate care
- If a child presents with symptoms and is being cared for while waiting for parents/carers
- When a member of staff needs to interact with a different bubble (distance will still be maintained)
- When adults need to work in communal areas and distancing of 2-meters is not possible

### **Illness and Symptoms:**

If your child has any of the following symptoms they must not come to school and a test should be booked (we will require confirmation that a test has been taken and what the result was):

1. A new, continuous cough
2. A loss of taste or smell
3. A temperature

If during the day your child presents with these symptoms, we will contact you and 111 NHS helpline. You will need to collect your child.

You should at this point book a test – if the result comes back negative, your child will be able to return to school. If you are unable to book or travel for a test, we can supply some home testing kits.

We recognise that children may get poorliness which is not down to COVID-19. We do ask that you do not bring your child to school if they are unwell, and only return them to school when they are feeling completely better.

### **CONCERNS ABOUT RETURNING**

We recognise that you or your child/children may be anxious about returning to school. This may include pupils who have themselves been shielding previously but have been advised that this is no longer necessary; those living in households where someone is clinically vulnerable; or those concerned about the comparatively increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19), including those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds or with certain conditions. If you or your child falls in to one of these categories, please do not hesitate to make an appointment with me to discuss your concerns.

Now the circumstances have changed, it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the Autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to ensure that their child attends school regularly
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

### **Pupils who are shielding or self-isolating**

We now know much more about coronavirus (COVID-19) and so in future, there will be far fewer children and young people advised to shield whenever community transmission rates are high. The majority of pupils will be able to return to school, however please note:

- a small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
- shielding advice for all adults and children was paused on 1 August 2020 which means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who were shielding – click here for the [current advice on shielding](#)

- if rates of the disease rise in local areas, children (or family members) from that area, and that area only, may be advised to shield during the period where rates remain high and, therefore, they may be temporarily unable to attend
- pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional should discuss their care with their health professional at their next planned clinical appointment - you can find more advice from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health at [COVID-19 - 'shielding' guidance for children and young people](#)

All previously affected children should be able to return to school except where individual clinical advice not to do so has been provided.

Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical or public health advice, we will immediately offer access to remote education and the absence will not be penalised

### **Behaviour and Attendance:**

We will be adding a COVID-19 behaviour and attendance policy update on to the school website soon and will let you know when it is available to read.

### **Drop-off and pick-up**

Unfortunately, we cannot offer more flexibility on drop-off and pick-up time slots as we need to ensure distancing, good hand hygiene and intervention to help children's learning, development and recovery from lost time in education. If you are going to be late, please contact us as we may need to adjust your arrival time to ensure safety. If your child is late, they will still need to be collected at their normal allocated time. When you have dropped your child/children off, please try to exit the school area as timely and safely as possible.

### **Enhanced cleaning**

When we return in September, classrooms and toilets will continue to be cleaned regularly during the day as well as at the beginning and the end of the day. Touch points, door handles (though doors will, where possible be kept open), desks, chairs, light switches, toilets and sinks will be given particular attention at regular intervals during the school day. Handwashing will remain a priority and will continue to take place often throughout the day.

### **Wrap around care (Breakfast club and afterschool club):**

We are able to offer breakfast club every morning from **8.15am**. Children will need to arrive in the same way and will be in their bubbles. We are able to offer after school provision until **4pm** (There may be some after school clubs, but these will be confirmed at the end of September). If you wish your child to access this wrap around care, you **must** prearrange this with us so we can manage numbers, and

arrival and departures safely. The cost for Breakfast club and after school club is £2.50 per session or £4.50 for two children, per day - Per session.

### **PE and Forest School:**

PE will be taught primarily on a **Tuesday** afternoon. On Tuesdays, children **should** come dressed ready for PE **with a school jumper or cardigan** over the top of their P.E kit.

Forest school will take place on different days for different bubbles (children will need wellies and waterproofs on these days:

**Monday = Bubble 1**

**Wednesday - = Bubble 2**

**Nursery will try to have regular sessions as the weather permits.**

### **Uniform and equipment:**

Uniform needs to be worn upon return to school – information about uniform can be found on the school website:

<https://www.blislandprimary.co.uk/Information/Uniform> .

Uniform can be purchased from the following website:

<http://www.footprintschoolwear.co.uk/blisland>

It is recommended that clothes are washed **regularly** to remove any possible coronavirus particles but this does not need to be daily.

Children will **not** need rucksacks or pencil cases. They may bring a drink and a book bag (bag they keep their book in) – all other resources they will need are provided.

I hope that the above gives you the information you and the children need to prepare for returning to school on Monday. I very much look forward to welcoming your children back to school.

Best wishes,

Matt Avery

(Head of School)

**Your Population Group is: A**