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Parent Update

Whole School Return to school – September 2nd 2020

Wednesday 15th July 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are well and manage to have a wonderful summer. We are really looking forward to seeing all of our children return on Wednesday 2nd September.

Below is a summary hopefully addressing questions and queries relating to what school will look like in September.

How is the school planning to minimise the risk of the spread of the virus?

Like all primary schools across the country from September all classes at Brook House will be designated as 'bubbles' and be known by a colour. By keeping children class bubbles that do not mix, in designated spaces, with designated staff, we are reducing social interactions and cross contamination.

Every classroom has a supply of tissues, hand sanitiser and a lidded bin. Doors, where possible, will be kept open to avoid the use of door handles and push plates and toilets will be limited to the amount of children who can use them. Children will be asked to wash their hands on entering the building, before and after break times, before lunch at the beginning of the afternoon and before they go home.

The school will be cleaned throughout the school day and again at the end of each day. To ensure greater capacity for this we are also employing an additional cleaner.

Whilst we are planning to reduce the amount of shared resources, should children in each group ever share a resource, this will be cleaned at the end of the usage.

Each day, your child will wear a wrist band that corresponds to the colour of their class bubble. This will further support us in ensuring our children do not mix with children from other bubbles during the school day, particularly when outside playing. All wrist bands will be collected in at the end of the school day and sterilised in preparation for the following day.

Staggered Starts

We will be staggering entry into school and limiting your access to the site. The reason we are staggering is for this is to limit the range of interactions which may take place. We ask for your support in enforcing this.

Based on government guidance to stagger children entering and exiting school, different class bubbles will enter and leave school at different times. When I share with you your child's class bubble and corresponding colour, I will confirm their exit and entrance point at school.

We would ask that in order to minimise numbers on site, only one parent brings the children to school. Can we ask that all parents support us in ensuring that the social distancing recommendation of staying 2m apart is enforced - including at the school gates. Once your child arrives they must go straight to their designated waiting areas.

I normally use Kids Kabin or my child attends an after school club will they be open?

For the foreseeable future Kids Kabin will not be running. The after school drama group 'Noodles' will also not be running. We will be running after school sports activities through our provider SJD Sport. Clubs run by SJD sport will be non-contact sports activities and be run as year group only clubs so the children do not mix with children from other year groups.

Will I be able to speak to my child's teacher or the office?

If you wish to speak to your child's teacher, please phone to make an appointment. Teachers cannot be seen without making a prior appointment. Any meetings with teachers will take place in the hall where we can arrange seating to maintain social distancing. Equally your child's teacher will be happy to phone you or address any query via email.

If you need the office, we will be limiting access into the building to one visitor at a time and you may have to wait outside. We have put social distancing markings outside the school entrance as a reminder to visitors.

Will Parents evening take place in the autumn term?

At present we intend to have Parents Evening in the autumn term. These will take place for Y3/4 parents on one evening and for Y5/6 Parents on an alternate evening. These meetings can take place in our school hall where social distancing measures can be implemented effectively. If this is the case we will confirm during the autumn term.

What will the day look like and what will they learn?

The children will be guided to their seat on the first morning. This will likely be the only place they will use for the day. They will be equipped with their own pen, pencil and other equipment if needed. *Could I ask that any school equipment your child took home is brought back into school upon their return and this can then go in their own drawer after sanitising.*

We would encourage children to bring in a set of colouring pencils or felt tips for school work if they can. Any equipment they bring in must remain in school and not be brought back and forwards. It will remain in their drawer where they sit.

Children will be sitting at desks in pairs facing the front of the classroom and not sitting opposite another child.

Children will do lessons as normal. There will be a focus on catching up on any learning missed since lock down with a particular focus on Maths and Literacy. Children will take part in PE, however, this will be limited to non-contact sports that require limited shared equipment and will take place outside where possible. Any P.E equipment used by their bubble will be cleaned at the end of the session. When it is your child's P.E day we are relaxing the school uniform policy so your child is only required to wear the school uniform items of P.E house colour T shirt, school sweatshirt or polo shirts alongside wearing shorts or jogging bottoms and trainers suitable for PE lessons. *Strictly **no** jeans, short skirts, heeled shoes or flip flops.* This will ensure the children are not having to change for P.E when it is their P.E day.

What about break and lunch times?

Breaks and lunch time will be staggered for all children. Once outside, each class will have their own demarcated space for break time. Each bubble may have access to some play equipment that will be cleaned at the end of any break sessions. Football or other contact sports will not be allowed to take place. For the first two weeks the school dinner will be a 'grab bag' option. The food will be brought into the classroom (where the children will eat their lunch) by a member of staff who works in that bubble. Pupils are still permitted to bring in packed lunches. On the week beginning 14th September hot meals will be available for the children who will eat their dinner in the school dining room.

From now on so we can plan for numbers in the dining hall if you decide your child would like a school lunch they must commit to having them for the whole week. Having odd days is no longer an option. Also if you decide your child would like a hot meal this must be ordered a week in advance on Monday.

Can my child still bring a mobile phone to school?

From September we want to strongly encourage children not to bring mobile phones into school. Only children in Years 5 and 6 are to bring a phone into school and to do so require written parent permission. Phones will be stored by children in their own individual sealed plastic bags with their names on that are dropped into a basket and stored in a safe place until the end of the day when they will be returned to the children. Staff in school will not handle children's phones.

It's my child's birthday can I bring in treats to share with the rest of the class?

Whilst Covid is with us children are not to bring in sweets or cakes to share with the rest of the class when it is their birthday.

Tuck Shop and Milk

There will be no tuck shop, however, school milk will be available to the children.

How will the school provide First Aid?

First Aid will continue to be provided by trained First Aiders, who will be on site throughout every day. Should your child require any form of First Aid, this will be administered by a member of staff who will wear PPE.

Can my child wear a face covering in school?

Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. This evidence will be kept under review. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education.

If your child wears a face mask to school, it is to be removed by them on arrival at school and put in a sealed plastic bag that they must bring to school. Following removal and putting in the sealed bag (which is to be stored in their own bag) they are to wash their hands.

Travelling to and from school.

Where possible we would strongly encourage all parents to walk or cycle to school with their child if at all possible.

Can my child bring in tissues?

Yes. We would strongly recommend this. Though we have tissues in class if children have easy access to tissues this makes it better for children to access and is strongly in line with the government advice to 'catch it, bin it, kill it'.

What happens if someone at school shows symptoms of coronavirus?

The government has released guidance on what to do should a child or member of staff show symptoms of coronavirus whilst at school. The guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

To summarise, we will make sure that the child/ staff member is looked after away from other people, in a well ventilated room, by someone who is wearing PPE. Parents will be phoned immediately should any child be showing symptoms and asked to take their child home for testing. Should testing confirm a child has Covid 19 then all members of that child's bubble will then be asked to self-isolate and be sent for testing.

And finally...

I hope the steps outlined above reassure you that our school will do everything we can to ensure school feels as normal as possible in these difficult times, alongside reassuring you that we will do everything to keep your child safe on their return. I hope you and your family have a wonderful summer break.

We can't wait to see your child in September!

Kind regards,

Mr Hinchliff

