



Birdsedge First School

Penistone Road,
Birdsedge,
Huddersfield
HD8 8XR
Tel 01484 605441
www.birdsedgefirst.org
office@birdsedgefirst.org
Head Teacher:
Mrs Debra Knowles/Rachael
Kaye

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING PHASED RETURN TO SCHOOL

21/05/20

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will be aware of plans to re-open schools from June 1st as per the letter sent to you on 19/5/20. We recognise how concerned you may be about sending your child back to school at this time but I would like to reassure you that health, safety and well-being of everyone in our school community is at the heart of what we hope to offer. Our plans for re-opening have been scrutinised by a Health & Safety Officer in terms of both safety of pupils, staff and parents.

We had hoped to offer a part-time provision to both our Reception (YR) and Y1 pupils but as there has been further guidance released from the Government we have decided to begin the re-phased opening by teaching **YR pupils only**. By doing this we can offer teaching Monday-Thursday, with a 'Deep Clean' on Fridays; this is in-line with guidance which stipulates beginning with YR and to try to offer as many days on-site as possible. Apologies to our Y1 parents – the situation is very fluid!

We will review this as soon as we can to see if we can then phase in Y1 in some way. We are not sure how this will look at this point. By working with YR only we have time to ascertain the level of Key Worker places needed. We may need more or less classrooms than anticipated. Although there is Government guidance that other year groups should potentially be included in the phased return, there are no plans as yet to open to other year groups - we await further information regarding this. Please see below important information for those pupils who will be returning from June 1st.

Key Worker pupils will be in their own bubble(s) depending upon numbers. They will stay in this bubble. Government advice is to NOT mix bubbles and so any YR Key Worker pupils will stay in the Key Worker bubbles unless parents wish them to be in class Monday-Thursday only. Parents can choose EITHER the YR provision OR the Key Worker provision, not both. Key worker pupils will be doing the same work as their peers with an adult. Teaching will NOT be the same as it previously was. We cannot sit with pupils, interact closely or mark their work. Pupils will be given an input and then expected to work at their desks. This is not our choice and is totally different to how we usually approach learning. However, it is the safest way and within Government and Union guidelines. All of this will be reviewed over time and we will follow Government advice as it is



issued. The usual Booking Form will be sent to you on Wednesdays - to be returned by 12.00 on Fridays to secure a place.

Parents have free choice regarding whether or not their child attends school and absence will not be penalised. Work will be set weekly and this will be the same as that taught at school. However, on-site staff will no longer be able to interact with parents and pupils as they will be in school. We will aim to provide a link member of staff who can potentially pick up emails daily.

As we have to maintain working 'bubbles' of pupils, start and end times will be staggered, following Government guidance as follows. We have selected different entry/exit points for groups Please do not arrive before your allocated times – these are planned to avoid pupils and parents mixing:

Group	Start time	End time	Drop off/pick up
Key Workers	9.00am	3.30pm	At white gates at the back of school – the teacher will come out to collect at 9am – please arrive promptly.
YR	9.10am	3.20pm	Please line up in the direction of the stone wall and adhere to social distancing advice.

We will email you closer to 1st June regarding any further information and to confirm these details. We discourage parents from gathering or chatting please as per Government guidelines. We will lock the white gate by 9.15am. Gates will re-open at 3.15pm but please wait by the wall and the teachers will bring the children out to you. Staff will be available to help you on the first day as we all get used to a new way of operating. Please note that parents should NOT enter the school playground – we do miss you though! We are unable to offer wraparound care at present however we will let you know when this changes. Parents may wish to speak to the Out Of School Club personally. Please note that ONLY 1 ADULT should accompany children to the pick up/drop off zone.

Our site has been cleaned and we have arranged additional cleaning during the school day. There will be a DEEP CLEAN on a Friday when school will be closed except to Key Worker pupils. Hand washing will happen every hour or so and we will be using hand sanitiser in all school areas. We have removed all soft furnishings and toys. Children will work in their 'bubble' with the same adult if at all possible. They will be working from their own allocated desk and chair at all times. They will not be allowed to wander. Each child will have their own work pack to use. This will be wiped regularly. There will no shared resources as currently – no toys etc.

Each 'bubble' will learn together and have break times together. Lunch is a packed lunch only and will be eaten within the bubble. Key Workers pupils will use the usual Booking Form to order a packed lunch which will be charged at the usual rate unless your child receives free school meals. YR pupils are entitled to a school lunch at no cost. Please note that initially we have to use an external caterer and that therefore sandwich choices will be very limited and cannot be made in advance.

We ask that parents send in a FULL water bottle every day – we will not be using water stations. If your child is bringing in their own packed lunch this should be in a NAMED carrier bag along with



Birdsedge First School

Penistone Road,
Birdsedge,
Huddersfield
HD8 8XR
Tel 01484 605441
www.birdsedgefirst.org
office@birdsedgefirst.org
Head Teacher:
Mrs Debra Knowles/Rachael
Kaye

their water. No book bags are required as we cannot send anything home, including reading books.

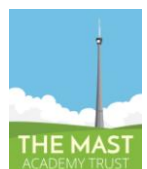
Children should wear clothing suitable for outdoor learning and PE – joggers and trainer are perfect. We will try whenever possible to work outside. Please wear a school jumper/cardigan if at all possible – supporting the children in still feeling 'at school' and connected to each other is very important. Government guidance states that pupils should not wear face masks – they are too young to understand how to use these properly. Staff may choose to wear a face mask at times as some of them remain in vulnerable groups. This may appear a little scary to youngsters and parents may want to make their child aware of what this may look like.

All classrooms have been arranged so that pupils are distanced from each other. Adults will work in a 'safe zone' which is 2m away from pupils. Again, this is not what pupils are used to – please let them know that we cannot come close to them. This has a potential to impact the whole of the school day – we cannot hug a child as we would normally if they are distressed. This may possibly be an issue as children are asked to leave parents after so long at home. Staff cannot come to you if your child is upset and you cannot bring them into school. If this happens to you please take your child home and ring us if you feel that they can safely come into school later on. We will advise when and how this should happen. We will of course do our very best to reassure our children – we will find the lack of touch very challenging.

Children will be working on the same work that is being set for any children working at home in their year groups. From June 1st staff will break the learning down into days. Please only do the work on the current day. If your child is accessing Key Worker provision they will be taught following this planning. I am sure you can see why learning in the correct order at the right time is crucial. We will download their work from the website and complete it either on a laptop or in their work pack.

Our days in school will be 'chunked' up as much as possible as we need to engage our youngest learners without the usual play equipment available. We will hold sessions every day during which the children will be encouraged to talk about their feelings, worries and concerns. Well-being needs to remain a focus as children try to adapt.

If your child is ill we will isolate them and call you to arrange pick up. If your child shows symptoms of COVID 19 at school the whole 'bubble' including staff will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days. Please do not send your child to school if they or anyone in your home is displaying COVID 19 symptoms. Whilst the virus is not presenting as particularly dangerous to children it remains so for adults.



We cannot advise whether or not your child should attend school on June 1st if we re-open, particularly if you have concerns about their health. Our most common 'vulnerable' category is asthma and so we have included useful information from Asthma UK:

People in the **clinically vulnerable (moderate risk) group** are considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. This includes adults and children with asthma. Staff in this category have been advised to work from home where possible. If working from home is not possible, they can move to the safest possible on-site roles, where they can stay 2 metres from others. If your child is in this category and you are worried about them going back to school, the current advice from government is to call your GP.

A child or member of staff who **lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable** (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, can go back to school.

If a child or member of staff **lives with someone who is shielding**, then they should only return to school if "stringent social distancing" can be maintained, according to government advice. They should not attend school if they can't maintain social distancing rules. Instead, they should be supported to learn or work at home. It's up to you to decide whether your child can maintain social distancing during the school day. It's likely that younger children will find social distancing difficult.


If a child or staff member **has coronavirus symptoms, or is self-isolating** because of coronavirus symptoms in their household, they should not go to school.

We need to inform parents that we cannot maintain 2m distance between pupils in classrooms but we have managed to secure a minimum 1.5m gap between tables. We will aim to enforce social distancing between pupils and will definitely put this into place for staff at school. It would be useful if parents can talk to their children about this.

Our expectations of behaviour will remain high. It is particularly important that children listen and follow instructions – it is dangerous not to do so. We have amended our behaviour policy as follows:

"The school will apply strict sanctions, up to and including exclusion to any pupils who wilfully refuse to adhere to arrangements of social distancing and deliberately cough or spit at pupils or staff, putting them at risk."

Many thanks and stay safe,



Debra Knowles
