



BROOKSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Cheshire, CH66 2EE

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Headteacher – Mr M Rodgers, Deputy Headteacher – Mr D Orme

Website - <http://www.brookside.cheshire.sch.uk/>

July 2020.

Dear Parents/carers,

I hope you are all well and coping through the pandemic.

Brookside Primary School will be open for **ALL CHILDREN** from Wednesday 2nd September 2020 (Nursery and Reception have a 'staggered start' so might have a different date). We look forward to seeing you all return safe and happy.

I know you will have been preparing your children for returning to school and this might be an anxious time. I also know you will agree that we must be very careful in this difficult situation and ensure we are keeping the health and safety of all children and staff as our number one priority. Any child who is showing the symptoms of Covid-19 **MUST** get a test and be negative before returning to school. As the Headteacher, I will refuse permission if the child hasn't been tested or is still showing signs of Covid-19.

There are lots of practical questions that need addressing about the September return, so I have tried to include most of them in this letter. If you have other concerns, please contact the school or look on our website for more information.

- Please try to walk to school and only use our car park if absolutely necessary. We need to avoid congestion.
- The government has set out its intent and plan for all children to return to school full time from the start of September. It is based on a **twin strategy of limiting contact between pupils and implementing hygiene measures;** thorough and regular handwashing and promoting good respiratory hygiene (the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach)
- The DfE (Department for Education) states "**if schools follow the guidance, they can be confident they are managing risk effectively.**" Brookside staff have been very thorough in our risk assessment.
- The main changes relate to how contact between individuals is to be limited in schools. Contact is to be limited in two main ways: By ensuring pupils remain in consistent groups ('bubbles') *wherever possible*, thereby minimising the number of contacts between different people across the school; and by maintaining distance between individuals wherever possible ('social distancing').
- The DfE has stated schools can run breakfast and after-school clubs, and that ideally schools would keep to the bubbles used during the school day, but recognised this ***might not be possible***. Therefore, we will still be providing care in our before and after school club (contact school to book a place).
- The DfE has recognised that strict social distancing will not always be possible, especially with primary-aged pupils. The guidance specifically states "we recognise that younger children will not be able to maintain social distancing, and it is acceptable for them not to distance *within their group*." All schools, in particular primary schools, are encouraged to take a realistic and pragmatic approach in this regard. This may include reminding children of the



need to give each other space where possible; some schools may consider using a simple 'no touching' approach to help children understand the need to maintain distance (we have done this at Brookside). However, the reality is that to fit all pupils in a classroom, they are likely to be in close proximity. The DfE has accepted that pupils will need to be sat close to each other in most classrooms (The DfE recommends that pupils sit side-by-side and do not face each other if this is possible)

- If older children can maintain social distancing, they are encouraged to do so. The DfE states "for children old enough, they should also be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff where possible." If this is possible for older children in primary, that is to be encouraged, but as the DfE has made clear, it is not an essential requirement.
- The DfE has stated that pupils passing each other briefly in a corridor or playground (eg walking past each other) is a relatively 'low risk', but that schools should try to avoid large groups of pupils mixing together in these spaces at the same time.
- Lunch time arrangements – we will not be providing 'hot dinners' for the first few weeks, instead we will provide a packed lunch to be eaten in the classrooms. As the advice changes, we will hopefully be able to go back to our normal menu.
- The usual rules on attendance will apply – school is **mandatory** again from September.
- Where possible, schools have also been asked to consider **staggered start and finish times** to keep different bubbles apart as they arrive at and leave school. Therefore, in September;

Y6	Mr Whitcombe	Start time 9.00am Finish time 3.00pm	Children should be brought to the playground gate closest to the field and stand by a cone 2 metres apart.
Y5	Mr Orme	Start time 8.45am Finish time 2.45pm	Children should be brought to the gate nearest Sutton Way which is close to the staff carpark
Y4	Ms Kendal	Start time 9.00am Finish time 3.00pm	Children should be brought to the gate nearest Sutton Way which is close to the staff carpark
Y3	Mrs Lomas	Start time 9.00am Finish time 3.00pm	Children should be brought to the first gate on the big playground and stand by a cone 2 metres apart.
Y2	Mr Gambles	Start time 8.45am Finish time 2.45pm	Children should be brought to the gate leading to the main entrance (red path) and stand by a cone 2 metres apart.
Y1	Mrs Smith	Start time 8.45am Finish time 2.45pm	Children should be brought to the first gate on the big playground and stand by a cone 2 metres apart.
REC	Ms Loney	Start time 9.00am Finish time 3.00pm	Children should be brought to the Reception gate and stand by a cone 2 metres apart.
N	Mrs McDonald	Start time 9.00am Finish time 3.00pm	Children should be brought to the Nursery gate and stand by a cone 2 metres apart.

We finish on Friday 17th July at 3pm for the summer holidays, and return on 2.9.2020. End of year reports available from 14.7.2020. Please stay safe and alert, and remember to teach your children to wash their hands for 20 seconds. Happy holidays everyone.

Mr M Rodgers

Headteacher

Brookside Primary School

