

Re-Opening Information for Reception

We are very happy to welcome Reception back to Elliston. It has been a strange time for us all and I know the children, like the staff, will be keen to get back to some form of normality. They may feel anxious and it is important for us not to dismiss these feelings. We need to tell them that it is OK to be worried but we will work together as a team to look after each other. Getting back to learning with their friends will be the best remedy! There may be some parents feeling concerned too but I hope the information we have provided helps you to feel confident in them returning to school. Remember anxiety is catching; we must guard against children seeing and listening to our fears. It is our job to reassure them and help them to feel safe and secure.

Social Distancing measures

These will be expected by anyone coming to Elliston and on the way home from Elliston. Signage will indicate waiting and walking areas for adults and children. Staff will be on hand each morning to ensure these are understood and followed.

Entry to school for Reception

The large gate on Bramhall Street, - a member of staff will be there to show you. Parents may come into the school grounds and follow the markings up to the door. Your child can look for the 5.4.3.2.1 leading to the 'hug zone'! If you need to wait for the gate to open, you must maintain social distancing of 2m in the queue.

Please only arrive at the times below according to your child's surname. This allows us to stagger the amount of people around the school grounds at any one time and allows children space to wash hands thoroughly on entry to school and before leaving for home.

At the end of the day, if you come to school to pick up your child, please come through this same gate and wait as guided by the markers. Your child will only be sent out to you when you are there.

Surname	Start time	Finish time
A, B, C	8.55am	2.40pm
D, E, F, G, H	9.05am	2.50pm
I, J, K, L, M	9.15am	3.00pm
N, O, P, Q, R, S	9.25am	3.10pm
T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z	9.35am	3.20pm

If you are a key worker and need to take advantage of the Key Worker hours, this can be agreed with Miss Willis – please contact the office. These children will not move to the Key Worker group but will stay with their teacher until home time.

Classes

The Government recognises that Primary aged children will find it difficult to stay 2m apart from each other and staff. However, we have worked through the recommended guidance of minimising contact, not mixing groups of children and adults, creating much smaller teaching groups and ensuring staggered movement around school for times like lunch and break. We have also changed the layout of the classroom to reduce the amount of furniture and resources in each. This will help us with maintaining a clean and safe environment. In order to allow children as much space as possible, the children coming back will be split into 2 classes as follows. They may be in a different class to their normal but they will always be with at least one of their friends. The adults in each group will be the only adults your children comes into contact with throughout the week. Reception children will be in the hall until the end of term, this gives them, and the returning Nursery children, more space so they can move freely without feeling 'penned into' areas.

Class	Area of school	Staff
Shark class	Hall	Mrs Leonard Mrs Rock
Dolphin class	Hall	Ms Jackson Mrs Bucknole

The children will be split into two groups, although these groups will be close to each other, they will not mix. Staff will ensure contact with each other is at a minimum.

Safety reminders

- Hand washing will be expected by all children and staff at regular times throughout the day.
- We continue to expect outstanding behaviour from all children; incidents of inappropriate behaviour that puts staff and other children at risk will not be tolerated.
- No equipment or toys or PE kit are to be brought into school– these pose a health risk to other children and staff.
- Equipment in school will not be shared.
- Children will take their coats and packed lunches into their classroom.

- Water bottles can be brought into school and left until the end of term – these will be washed in an industrial cleaner at the end of everyday by the adults, all bottles must be named with a permanent marker. Alternatively, bottled water may be brought in plastic bottles and binned at the end of the day.
- If you or your child displays any symptoms of COVID-19, as identified by the Government, **do not attempt to come to school**. Ring the school office and we will be able to advise you of testing processes. Isolation guidance will apply for unless a negative test result is secured.
- Any child taken ill with COVID-19 symptoms in school will go to an isolation room and you will need to collect him/her plus siblings immediately. We will need up to date contact details for all parents/carers.
- Any First Aid issues that are not COVID-19 related will be treated and communicated to you as we would normally.
- FOR ANY FIRST AID, staff will wear PPE to protect themselves and the children. You can let the children know this to ensure this is not a worry for them. PPE will be apron, gloves and mask. The same will apply for any member of staff helping a child who has had a toilet accident at school.

You can help by:

- Talking through this plan with your children and contacting us should you have any questions
- Reminding children about good hand washing and good hygiene when sneezing and coughing
- Following the social distancing measures we have put into place
- Ensuring your family follows the social distancing guidance in your home lives as guided by the government.

The school office remains closed to parents, please ring on 01472 235116 or email office@ellistonprimary.co.uk should you need to pass on messages to staff or you have any queries.

We know the children will be very excited to be back and we will be sending them a special letter before the weekend for you to read to them, this way they know what will be happening when they arrive. I hope that after their first day back with us, your child will be able to tell you that there may be some things that look different in school but the heart and soul of Elliston has not changed.