

Information about school re-opening on Monday June 8th 2020 Reception and Keyworker classes

(This information is correct at the time of writing, 1st June 2020, but will be updated in line with any new guidance from the Department for Education or Birmingham City Council. We will endeavour to communicate any major changes as soon as possible.

Class “Bubbles” – Reception children will be working in groups of no more than 12, with two adults. The adults will remain consistent as much as possible. We are referring to these groups as ‘bubbles’. We have created a fourth reception class to cater for the number of children requesting a place at school. This class will be known as “Kangakats”. Children will receive a letter in the post to welcome them back into their class.

The Keyworker class will be working in a group of no more than 15 children, with 3 adults. The adults will remain as constant as much as possible.

School hours –Timings will change slightly to ensure the number of people on site are limited. Staggered start/end times are as follows:

Kangaroos and Penguins – **8.55am** until **3.10pm** (**Friday 8.55am** until **11.50am**)

Meerkats and KangaKats – **9.05am** until **3.20pm** (**Friday 9.05am** until **12.00 midday**)

It is essential that children arrive at school on time and are collected on time. If you fail to do this, your child may be refused entry to school. Any parent who is late collecting their child more than once, will be asked not to attend again, as this is putting others at risk. **Friday is morning only, all Reception children must be collected by times indicated above.**

Drop off and collection points -These are listed below, but staff will be on hand each day to direct you. There will be markers indicating where you can wait whilst keeping to the 2m social distancing rule. Strictly only one adult is permitted to drop off and pick up a child in order to minimise the number of adults on site.

Clothes - We ask that children come in their own practical, sensible clothing and shoes, not school uniform. A fresh set of washed clothes should be worn each day.

Lunch/snack - Children will need to bring their own bottle of water and packed lunch- please ensure both are labelled with their first and second name. Children who are currently entitled to the free school meal vouchers, which have been supplied during lockdown, will continue to receive these. Lunches will be eaten in the classrooms with the other children in their bubble. Playtimes will be staggered to ensure that bubbles do not mix.

Classes -The five classes are as follows;

Meerkats: Mrs McComish and Mrs Hewitt (Miss Taylor to cover Friday morning Wednesday afternoon) Meerkats will enter and exit the door near to the Training room. We ask that you queue by the green gate, drop your child off at the door and walk around the training room to exit. There will be markers to indicate where to stand so that the 2m social distancing rule can be applied.

Penguins: Miss Clover and Mrs Lucas

Penguins will enter and exit using the door at the front of the school, between the office and green railings. There will be markers to indicate where to stand so that the 2m social distancing rule can be applied.

Kangaroos: Mr Meakin and Miss Guerin

Kangaroos will enter and exit using their usual door. Please queue along the wall during drop-off and collection. There will be markers to indicate where to stand so that the 2m social distancing rule can be applied.

KangaKats: Miss Harris and Mrs Boustead

KangaKats will be based in Hedgehogs class (the classroom that leads onto the KS1 playground next to the Kangaroo's door). KangaKats will enter and exit using the classroom door. Please queue beside the benches during drop-off and collection. There will be markers to indicate where to stand so that the 2m social distancing rule can be applied.

Rainbow class (Keyworker class): Miss Wilks and Mrs. Norrie plus Miss Driscoll, (Mon/Tues), Mrs O'Rourke (Weds, Thurs, Fri)

These children will be working in the main hall. Please drop off and collect children via the main office door. Please queue beside the railings. There will be markers to indicate where to stand so that the 2m social distancing rule can be applied.

Below is further information (Q&A) and the practical measures we have put in place to reduce risk.

What will social distancing look like?

This is where we have to be honest and say that we are unable to socially distance the children in Nursery and Reception. As you can appreciate, this is an impossible task due to the children's age. It is also something that we do not want to do, as it could have a detrimental effect on our little people's wellbeing. The Early Years curriculum is based around play and interaction and this is what we will continue to provide. However, we have put practical measures in place to reduce risks for children, staff and families. Children will work in what we are referring to as 'bubbles'. Bubbles will contain no more than 12 children and 2 adults. Children will have either their class teacher or teaching assistant with them in their bubble. We will continue to support children with their hygiene in an age appropriate way, for example washing hands for 20 second (whilst singing Happy Birthday!), using the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. We have arranged different entry and exit points for each bubble to minimise contact between adults at drop off and collection. Strictly only one adult for drop off/ collection. You must arrive and collect children on time. Anyone not adhering to times will subsequently not be allowed access to school provision. Children will only interact with the children in their bubble throughout the day, including during playtimes and lunch times.

We will be limiting external visitors into school, including parents.

We ask that children wear clean clothes each day.

The classrooms are still set up for continuous provision with tables to allow for focus activities however all soft furnishings and resources that cannot be easily cleaned, have been removed. We have slightly reduced the amount of resources in the classrooms and made individual packs of whiteboards and pens for children to use. Children will also be issued with their own new workbook to record work.

How will the school be cleaned?

School has had a deep clean and has been cleaned daily during school closure. When school re-opens our cleaning team will carry out a thorough clean of classrooms and toilets each day after all of the children

have left. Anti-viral and anti-bacterial products will be used. Toilet areas will also be cleaned during the day, probably during/after lunchtime.

Each classroom will have their own handwashing station so that staff can monitor and support handwashing. Each classroom will also have their own cleaning equipment. Antibacterial soap will be available and we have hand sanitizer stations in each classroom. At lunchtime tables, chairs and door handles will be cleaned by the adults working in the classroom. On Friday afternoons, a deeper clean of resources will take place.

Will the teachers be tested before returning?

No. Our staff have been very cautious in their own contacts to reduce risks to themselves. However if any member of staff feels unwell with a symptom related to Coronavirus they will be sent home to isolate for 7 days and a test will be arranged, preferably the same day.

This also applies to children. If any child shows Coronavirus symptoms, a member of staff wearing PPE will take the child sensitively, away from their bubble. Parents will be contacted for immediate collection and should then book a test for the child and themselves and self isolate at home for 7 days. The member of staff who has cared for the child in close contact will also need to be tested.

For further guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection please follow link below;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

What happens if a child or teacher tests positive?

If any child shows Corona Virus symptoms, a member of staff will put on PPE (apron, gloves, mask) and deal with the child outside of the classroom in an isolated area (Bee classroom). Parents will be contacted for immediate collection and should then book a test immediately for the child and themselves. The member of staff who has cared for the child in close contact will need to be tested.

DFE Guidance advice updated: 24.5.20

“Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self isolation”

-“If the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their immediate group (bubble) within their setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of those advised to self-isolate do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with subsequently develops symptoms”

The action that the school will have to take will be guided by advice from Public Health England.

Will school staff be wearing PPE?

No. The Government guidance suggests that this is not needed in school.

Can I send my child part-time?

Children of Key Workers in years 1 and 2 may attend on a part-time basis, as is currently the case. Please book the days in/out in advance via the keyworker email (contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk)

Children in Nursery and Reception who are returning to school are expected to be in school all week. Part-time attendance is not an option, and absences should be reported to the school office by telephone, as normal.

What will the school be teaching?

We will be teaching a “Recovery Curriculum”, which will focus on core learning in reading, writing and maths, revising what we hope the children have retained from before lockdown. We will work outdoors as

often as possible and will add in creative lessons, PHSE lessons and activities that will provide enjoyment. The focus of time at school will inevitably include many activities that support children's wellbeing.

What does my child need to bring in to school?

Children need a packed lunch and water bottle each day. Please ensure these are clearly labelled with their name.

Provide an extra piece of fruit in your child's lunch box for their mid- morning snack. Unfortunately, school are not receiving fruit and milk deliveries.

Please do not send your child's book bag to school. We will not be able to send reading books home, however children will be reading in school.

On the first day back at school please send in sun cream and a sun hat that can be kept at school, again clearly labelled with names. We will keep these in school as we will be taking part in lots of outdoor learning.

What do I do if I need to pass on a message?

There will be a queue system at drop off and collection, so please do not try to engage with staff on the door. We still wish to maintain dialogue between teachers and parents as this is crucial for the well-being of our children, and their education. However, we will be unable to have face to face meetings with parents. Should you need to pass on information to the class teacher, please either telephone school or send an email message using enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk.

All communication with school should be by telephone wherever possible. We ask that you do not access the office unless by prior arrangement, or in the case of an emergency. Please make sure that you only contact school if you really need to.

How do I support my child with the transition back to school?

Please see information sheet below.

Your child will also be receiving a letter in the post welcoming them back to school and explaining some of the changes that we have made to their routines and classrooms.

How to support your child's transition back to school

Parents and Carers



Dear parents and carers,

The aim of this newsletter is to help you and your family adjust to transitioning back to school. Below are some ways you can prepare and support your child.

Thinking and talking about returning to school

Follow the link below for a useful article suggesting 5 top tips.

<https://beaconschoolsupport.co.uk/newsletters/parents-how-to-help-your-child-return-to-school-successfully?fbclid=IwAR34Z4YYske59ZBG8kQZTpDr5I1NC9nwdIMu9syhIJiB2iOVKi1fQP3GZkQ>

Follow the links below for some further guidance on how to adjust back to school life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIXA57oI848&feature=youtu.be>

<https://healthyfamilies.beyondblue.org.au/age-6-12/mental-health-conditions-in-children/anxiety/tackling-back-to-school-anxiety>

Help your child familiarise themselves with adults at school by listening to the bedtime stories on the school YouTube channel (links to access the stories have been sent via Parentmail).

Your child should also be receiving a letter in the post welcoming them back to school and explaining some of the differences.

Talking about feelings

If your child is feeling anxious about returning to school then the links below include conversation starters, breathing techniques and a video, which can help you to encourage your child to express how they are feeling. Remember be careful how you do this - if your child is happy about the return to school then try not to cause new anxieties!

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-your-child-is-anxious-about-going-back-to-school/#conversation-starters>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z7xmmfr>

We look forward to seeing you all very soon. We will be on the doors as normal to welcome you back with a smile!



**Federation of
Boldmere Schools**