

Information about school re-opening on Monday June 8th 2020 Year 6 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.

Dear Parents / carers,

We are really looking forward to our Year 6 children returning to school and we have tried to mitigate as much risk as possible so children feel safe to return. However, we simply cannot give any assurances and we hope you understand this.

Bubbles

Year 6 children will be working in groups of no more than 12, with two designated adults. The adults will remain consistent as much as possible. We are referring to these groups as 'bubbles'. There will be 6 bubble groups in total. Information about your child's bubble group; start and finish time; key adults; and entrance and exits can be found on the individual letter to pupils. All bubble groups will be located in the main building. **Please contact the school office via email or telephone to let us know if you will be dropping off or collecting your child.**

Key Worker Groups

The Keyworker class will be working in a group of no more than 10 children, with designated adults. Children belonging to the key worker group will now be taught in the Annexe, enabling us to isolate them completely from the Year 6 children.

School hours

Timings will be staggered to ensure the number of people arriving and leaving are limited. Children will also use alternative entrances and exits. Please be aware that they Key Worker Group will now enter and exit school via the small playground and will access this through the sidewalk located by the Busy Bodies entrance.

It is essential that children arrive at school on time and, if parents are collecting them, 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. Children who are walking home by themselves may continue to bring their mobile phone into school; it will remain in their desk throughout the day. We kindly ask that children only bring in their phone if it is an absolute necessity.

Key information

Strictly only one adult is permitted to drop off and pick up a child in order to minimise the number of adults on site. No parents will be allowed on site (this includes parent waiting areas). Please wait on the pavement for your child to be sent to you.

Teachers and office staff will not be available at any point during the day for face to face discussions; please continue to communicate with us via phone and email. If your child has forgotten something (for instance their lunch etc) please do not bring it into school. We will make arrangements ourselves within school. Therefore, it is imperative that any medication (inhalers) are sent into school with your child on Monday 8th June.

Clothes - We ask that children come in their own practical, sensible clothing and shoes, not school uniform. A fresh set of washed clothes must be worn each day. Please ensure that these clothes are suitable for outdoor learning / PE activities.

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 or key worker group. Playtimes will be staggered to ensure that groups do not mix.

Practical measures we have put in place to reduce risk.

What will social distancing look like?

We have put practical measures in place to reduce risks for children, staff and families. We will reinforce the need for 2 metre social distancing at all times. It is up to your children to ensure that they are respecting this; please take some time to discuss this further with your children.

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 their own designated desk, where they will keep their drinks bottle, lunch and mobile phone (if necessary). Stationery has been provided in individual packs for each child. This will also be kept on their desk.

We will continue to support children with their hygiene, for example washing hands for 20 seconds, using the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach, using the hand sanitisers on entry and exit to the buildings. Each bubble and key worker group will be designated a sink that will be used by that group only.

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.

How will the school be cleaned?

School has had a deep clean and has been cleaned daily throughout lockdown. When school re-opens to Year 6, 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.

Each classroom will have their own handwashing station so that staff can ensure regular 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 to a designated place. 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. 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 also need to be tested. If your child is showing symptoms at home, they will need to self-isolate and a test should be organised. Please inform school of any occasions where this may be the case as pupils and staff who have come into contact with your child will also need to self-isolate. Please inform us as soon as you spot any symptoms so we can put the appropriate measures into place.

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?

The Government guidance suggests that this is not needed in school. However, if staff, or children, choose to wear PPE, they may do so.

Can I send my child part-time?

Children of Key Workers may attend on a part-time basis, as is currently the case.

Children in Year 6 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, alongside transition topics specific to Year 6. There will be opportunities to work outdoors and we will continue to offer creative lessons based around our transition themes. 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 snack, packed lunch and water bottle each day. Please ensure these are clearly labelled with their name.

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. Please keep personal belongings to a minimum.

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

There will be a staggered 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 as we will be enforcing social distancing measures set out by the government. Should you need to pass on any important 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 at all unless it is in the case of an emergency. Please make sure that you only contact school, via telephone or email, 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 welcoming (via email) 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=IwAR34Z4YYske5qZBG8kQZTpDr5I1NC9nwdIMu9syhIJiB2iOVKi1fQP3GZkQ>

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 stories and novels on the school YouTube channel (links to access the stories have been sent via Parentmail).

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**