

“Here to make a difference”



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Head teacher: Mrs C Addison

24<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Return to school September 2020**

We hope that this letter finds you and your family happy and well. We recognise that this has been a very difficult and challenging time for everyone. Firstly, we would like to thank you for your commitment to supporting your children's education at home over the spring and summer terms. We want to ensure that all parents and carers know what to expect following the government's announcement that all children are expected to return to school in September. **The arrangements below will be under regular review.**

We would like all our families to recognise that returning to school is now extremely important for our children's education and wellbeing. We appreciate that many parents will still be anxious about coronavirus and we need to work together to reduce the risk of further infection. We ask that you continue to follow government guidance if you, or a household family member display any symptoms of coronavirus.

### **Key arrangements relating to September 2020:**

- The Autumn term will start on Wednesday 2nd September for children. Those pupils beginning Nursery or Reception with us have already received welcome packs detailing arrangements for their start at Benfieldside.
- We will be operating phase Bubbles as follows: Bubble 1 – Nursery and Reception, Bubble 2- Y1 and Y2, Bubble 3- Y3 and Y4, Bubble 4- Y5 and Y6. As a temporary measure, we have staggered the start times slightly: KS1 should enter at 8.50 am and leave at 3.20pm. KS2 pupils should arrive and leave at the normal times (8.55am and 3.25pm).
- Entry to the site: Bubble 1 should use the pedestrian gate next to the carpark, Bubble 2 please use the original playground gate and make your way down to your lines on the KS1 playground, Bubble 3 – please use the new gate and line up on the football yard, Bubble 4 use the new gate and line up on the KS2 yard in the new position indicated. Initially, all teachers will be at their designated line space whilst we get used to the new arrangements.
- Playground gates will not open until 8.45am- please do not turn up early.

- Playground gates will be closed at 9.05am – if you are late, please telephone the office on 01207591369 to arrange for your child's safe entry to the school.
- As in the summer term, communication with the school should be made through email, text or telephone call.
- **Parents must telephone or email the school to make an appointment to see a member of staff**, however unlike the summer term, we will be allowing parents to enter the grounds (**not the buildings**) if they need to.
- Parents and Carers are asked not to congregate at or near school gates or stay in the school grounds any longer than is strictly necessary- parents of older pupils should consider sending their children to their lines rather than accompanying them, where they feel it is safe to do so. Please follow social distancing guidelines.
- Break/lunch times will be staggered, with pupils able to mix with others in their Bubble.
- During the afternoon, pupils will have the opportunity to relax/chill out in their classrooms and will be able to take a comfort break. They will not access the outdoor area during this break, in order to maximise learning time during the afternoon.
- Dinner Money – if families do send dinner money etc. into school, then it must be placed in your child's bag in a marked envelope for your child to pass to their teacher.
- During the initial return to school, there will be no breakfast or after school club provision offered- this will be reviewed once children and staff are back on site and parents will be updated accordingly
- The school will be cleaned every day as normal. There will be additional cleaning of touch points (door handles etc.) during the day.
- The routines for washing hands and using hand sanitiser that were implemented before lockdown will be maintained.
- Children will wear school uniform.
- Children should bring a named water bottle containing water. This does not have to be a school water bottle.
- Classroom resources will not be shared. Children will be provided with their own pencil and pen for their exclusive use in Key Stage 1 & 2. **Please do NOT send your child to school with stationery from home.**
- Pupils should not bring any toys or other things from home.
- Children will be asked to bring appropriate PE kit for activities.
- There will be no swimming sessions for Y3/4 pupils until DCC inform us that they have lifted their suspension of these sessions.
- There will be no trips and visits until it is deemed that they can be undertaken safely.
- There will be no whole school assemblies in September, however we hope to implement a Bubble system for phases to enjoy these together.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back next week.

Best wishes,  
Mrs Addison  
Headteacher