



BRINKWORTH EARL DANBY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Serving the communities of Brinkworth and Dauntsey

Headteacher: Mrs L Hilliard

Believe to Achieve! "Roots will grow down into God's love and keep us strong" EPH 3:17

21st July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

September School Re-Opening

As you will be aware there has now been guidance issued for the **FULL** re-opening of schools in September and we cannot wait to welcome everyone back including those new to our school! As a school we have attempted to maintain a sense of normality, but with the recognition that things are different for us all. The first thing we ask of you, as parents, is to continue to communicate with us, and that, together, we follow the latest Government guidance summarised as follows:

'Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school

Ensuring that pupils, staff and other adults do not come into the school if they have [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#), or have tested positive in the last 7 days, and ensuring anyone developing those symptoms during the school day is sent home, are essential actions to reduce the risk in schools and further drive down transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). All schools must follow this process and ensure all staff are aware of it.

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any pupils who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test) or if the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive (see below) or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace.'

Guidance for full opening: Schools (2nd July 2020).

We ask you to please work with us over the next few months as we get the school up to running at full capacity. Attendance from September will be mandatory for all children. Should you have any queries or concerns then please do email me directly head@brinkworthearldanbys.wilts.sch.uk. We totally recognise that for some children and adults, a return in September will be an anxious time. We will be doing our best to mitigate these issues. Being in a safe environment with friends, playing games and laughing is often enough to reset the equilibrium for the majority of our children.

As a school we are in the process of **carefully planning** for September for the reopening, ensuring that we do this as safely as possible, following the guidance that has been given to us by the DfE, Public Health England and also Wiltshire Council. **The safety of pupils and staff will be our primary concern in this planning process and will remain so throughout.**

Our plans and risk assessments will be carefully looked at and approved by the Governors and the Local Authority **and then shared** with you just before the start of the new academic year.

Every school in Wiltshire is different and, although each school will be following the same guidance, how this is enacted safely will look slightly different according to context.

In the meantime, here is some useful information that can be shared with you now and will help you and your child prepare for September.

Start Date

All children start back on Wednesday 3rd September apart from our new Foundation Stage class who will come in for one morning during the first week.

Uniform

Children will be expected to wear school uniform. If you would like to order one online with the school's logo on, please find the link on our school website. Some of the uniform without the school logo can also be bought at any local supermarket. On P.E. days children need to come to school wearing their P.E. kit to school for the day. They will wear it all day and do not need to bring in a change of clothes. The days your child's class has P.E. is on the class letter sent out on Friday.

What your child will need to bring to school

- Bag/Book bag
- Sun hat (if needed)
- Coat (if needed)
- Lunch box (if needed)
- KS2 (Upper School) children only - Mid morning snack
- Hand cream (if needed) - This needs to stay in school
- FS (Reception Class) only – change of clothes

Hand Washing

Children will be taught a new regime of self-care. There will be the same stringent emphasis on thorough handwashing at the start and end of the day, prior and post every break/lunch time and before and after children eat and go outside. Children **DO NOT** need to bring in their own hand sanitiser.

As a school we have plenty of hand sanitiser in **ALL classrooms** as well as at stations around the school, including outside the lunch hall.

Children will be told to wash their hands and sanitise regularly throughout the day.

Start and end of the school day

At the start and end of the day, we kindly request that only one parent/carer accompany their child/children to school. In order to reduce the number of adults on site, we would like all children to enter the school site unaccompanied. In order to minimise the risk of cross infection, each class will have a 10 minute drop off and pick up time for their class. This information has already been sent to you in the class letter last Friday.

Each class will have a different start time and will enter the school site in the normal way. A member of staff will be there to greet the children at the start of each day.

At pick up time Lower School parents will need to enter the school gates and stand on a dot waiting until they get to the front of the queue to collect their child. At Upper School parents will need to enter the site using the gate at the top of the playground and then stand on a dot waiting until they get to the front of the queue to collect their child. Upper School parents and children will then need to leave the school site by the gate nearest the school.

We request that social distancing measures are maintained and that pupils do not walk back home in groups, but with a close family member. It is imperative that the correct school entrance is used and that pupils arrive at the specified time.

If you have more than one child returning to school who have been given different arrival times and are on different sites we appreciate that they might not be able to enter the school sites at the allocated time. We would expect you to drop off one of your children at the correct time.

Children will go straight to their classrooms as soon as they enter the school site. All pupils at Lower School will enter the school building by the external door of their respective classrooms apart from Foundation Stage who will enter using the main school entrance. Upper School pupils will enter the school building by the ramp.

Children that come to school on dedicated school transport will be able to go to their classrooms once they arrive at the school site.

If your child becomes distressed in the morning, staff will try to coax them into school using their usual strategies.

Staff Deployment

Each class has been assigned teacher(s) and teaching assistant(s) who will remain with that bubble. Where this is not possible, and a staff member does need to move between groups, then strict hand washing and social distancing will take place.

Classroom organisation and moving around school:

In the classroom allocated to your child's 'bubble', children will be required to only use their allocated desk and chair. The classrooms will be set up so two children will share a desk but will sit forward facing. All of the desks will be set out spaced around the classroom.

The children will be given a zip bag with their own allocated stationery, drinking cup (cleaned every night) and bin. As a school, we are limiting the sharing of equipment and whenever equipment must be used in class, it will be thoroughly cleaned and decontaminated by an adult and the children will wash their hands.

Behaviour Policy

As we welcome pupils back, we have reviewed and made changes to our behaviour policy in light of COVID 19.

If it is felt that your child frequently and wilfully contravenes social-distancing expectations thus endangering themselves and others, the school reserves the right to request that they no longer continue to attend our school whilst COVID-19 measures are in place.

A copy of the policy can be found on the school's website.

Break time and Lunchtime

All KS2 (Upper School) children should bring a healthy snack in for their mid-morning break. Fresh fruit and vegetables will be provided for all children in KS1 and Foundation Stage for their mid-morning break. Fresh water will be available to drink throughout the day and each child will have their own cup on their desk which will be washed at the end of every day.

The school will be providing hot meals cooked on our Lower School site, as usual, with a main meal, vegetarian and a jacket potato option every day apart from grab bag days. These can be booked as normal through ParentPay. As ever, you can also choose to provide a packed lunch for your child.

Year 1 and 2 will eat their lunch in their classrooms and the tables will be cleaned both before and after the children have eaten their lunch. Foundation Stage will eat their lunch in the Hall. All KS2 classes will eat their lunch in the Hall which will be cleaned down after each class has eaten their lunch.

Break times and lunch times will be staggered as each class 'bubble' will play within their 'bubble'. The children will be encouraged to socially distance and there will be no tag games or physical contact.

We have children in school who have severe allergic reactions to nuts. As you are aware, this could be potentially very serious indeed for the child if he/she were exposed to nuts. As a precaution, we are therefore requesting you DO NOT send your child to school with any nut based foods for their mid-morning snack or their lunchbox in order to avoid a possibly dangerous situation. We do realise that many foods contain traces of nuts and we are not asking that you stop using these. Thank you for your co-operation.

Children falling ill in school

If your child becomes ill during the school day then we will ask you to collect your child as soon as possible as we have a collective responsibility to keep all our children and staff safe. If your child's symptoms are in line with COVID-19 symptoms, staff will be required to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and we will insist that your child remains at home for fourteen days or until they have a negative test. The whole 'bubble' will also need to self-isolate for fourteen days or until they are told to return following a negative test result received by school.

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home to avoid compromising the rest of their class 'bubble'.

For the most up to date advice, please contact 111.

Cleaning

There will be rigorous cleaning of the school every night. On Friday, the team will complete a weekly deep clean of both school sites. Throughout the day, staff will frequently clean high-contact areas such as taps, doors and light switches. All internal and external doors will be wedged open to minimise the need for pupil and staff contact. In order to enable deep cleaning, all classrooms will look emptier with soft toys and resources that are hard to clean packed away.

Outdoor equipment used at both break/lunch times and during PE lessons will only be used by that class 'bubble' and will be cleaned thoroughly before it is passed to another class to use.

Home Learning Contingency Plan

Should there be a local lockdown or bubble closure, we will inform you of the home learning plans for your child.

Parent / Carers / Visitors in School

We need to protect all staff including office staff. Parents must not enter the school building unless it is for an essential reason e.g. your child has forgotten their inhaler. If you have any queries, you must telephone or email the school. All parent/teacher communication will be conducted by telephone/email.

Please use the class email address to communicate with your child's teacher or to inform them of anything important you think they should know.

Year group/Class	Email address
Beech – Mrs Gray/Mrs Watts	beech@brinkworthearldanbys.wilts.sch.uk
Oak – Mrs Pocock/Mrs Crossman	oak@brinkworthearldanbys.wilts.sch.uk
Elm – Mrs Cross	elm@brinkworthearldanbys.wilts.sch.uk
Birch – Mrs Gordon	birch@brinkworthearldanbys.wilts.sch.uk
Rowan – Mrs Griffiths	rowan@brinkworthearldanbys.wilts.sch.uk
Willow – Mr Foster	willow@brinkworthearldanbys.wilts.sch.uk

In exceptional circumstances face to face meetings, observing social distancing, can be arranged. Please contact the school office to arrange these meetings.

Contact Numbers

Please make sure we have your up-to-date contact numbers. If they have changed over the closure period, please contact the admin team on one of the sites:-

admin@brinkworthearldanbys.wilts.sch.uk or lowschool@brinkworthearldanbys.wilts.sch.uk.

Anxious Children

It is important to start talking to your child about their return to school. We understand that some children will be very anxious and we will do all we can to alleviate these fears on their return.

Finally

It would be useful for you to talk to your child about how different school will be, not just how it looks but also how the classes have been organised – this includes lower temperatures as classroom windows and doors will be open wherever possible. The school day will work at a slower pace, and whilst the curriculum will be covered, children need to remember that lessons will be taught differently and they also need to be prepared for more sitting down to take into account social distancing!

Please be patient and if we could be doing something in a better way please tell us so that we can revise the way we work. Our most up-to-date risk assessment and control measures document will be sent out at the end of the summer holidays.

We know school cannot be the same as it was before COVID-19 and there are many changes that have had to be made to adjust to these new times. However, what has not changed, is that we are pleased to all be together again, as a school community, to start a new and exciting school year.

Yours sincerely

L Hilliard

Mrs L Hilliard

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