



BEARWOOD Primary and Nursery School

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Bearwood Primary and Nursery School
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Learning, Enjoying & Succeeding Together

Wednesday 20th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your families are staying safe and well. We have been working hard to put all the plans in place (following the latest government guidance) for your children's potential return to school. We will be in touch with you by the end of the week to communicate the school's offer detailing how we are planning to partially re-open. In the meantime, we know that you have lots of questions and we hope that this letter will help answer them. We hope that you will be able to use this information to help you prepare your children for returning to school, as it will be a very different environment to when they left in March.

When will our school be open?

If your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, some of the pupils will possibly be coming back to school from the week beginning 1st June. Some year groups might start later in June, dependent on government guidance. All eligible children who have already been attending since March, will also continue to be able to come to school.

What if I have another child in a different year group, other than Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, can they come to school too?

No, only the priority groups as listed above are able to return.

Has the list of eligible children changed?

At present the critical worker/key worker list from the Government has not been updated and therefore there is no change.

If my child is in one of the year groups that is eligible to go to school but I have told you that I do not want them to come, am I able to change my mind at a later date?

If you decide that you would like your child to start attending school, if you let us know by Wednesday then your child will be able to start back at school on the following Monday.

Will my child need to come in uniform?

Yes please. We understand that some children may have grown out of their school shoes so they may wear trainers if there is no other option.

Can my child wear PPE?

The latest government guidance is that young children should not wear face mask under any circumstances.



Bearwood Primary and Nursery is a founding school of The Hillary Partnership. Registered in England and Wales –
Number 10286967

Registered office Unit E, The Mill Yard, Nursling Street, Nursling, Southampton, England, SO16 0AJ
An Exempt Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee, VAT registration number: 197 0569 67

Will I need to provide any equipment?

Each child will be given their own resource pack by the school, so no learning equipment will be required. You will need to provide your child with their own named water bottle and a mid-morning snack in a throw away bag.

What if I need breakfast and/or after school care?

We will no longer offer wrap around care by Kidscape. This is due to reducing the cross contamination of groups. Kidscape will remain closed until further notice, but we hope that they would re-open in the Autumn Term.

Will the start and finish times of the school day be the same?

No. We will operate a staggered start and finish - this is to reduce contact across groups and to control social distancing expectations. You will be notified of your child's start date and their start and finish times by the end of the week. Most times slots will be 10 minutes long, therefore it is absolutely necessary that children are not late as we do not have the staff to take your child to their room. School will close at 1pm on a Friday for all pupils so that the school can have a deep clean.

Will entrance and exit into school be the same?

No. We will be operating a one-way system, therefore most children will enter/exit via a different gate and/or door. We will operate a 'holding bay' in the form of a social distancing queue, in the car park. There will be clear markings and we expect all adults and children to strictly adhere to these markings. Staff will be on hand to help and support you. The aim of this is not to have gatherings of people at any one time.

Can I still escort my child into school?

Of course, many children will need support from you to give them the confidence that everything is OK and that they are going in the right direction. Again, following the Government guidance, only one adult and one child will be permitted in the holding bays and through the gates. No adults will be allowed entry into the classrooms or into the school building. We request that only someone from your household brings your child to school.

What will happen if my child is reluctant to leave me and clings onto me?

We recognise that this is an anxious time for the children and we will endeavour to reassure them as much as possible. I know that in the past we would take a child by the hand to enable the parent to leave, however, taking social distancing into consideration we are currently unable to support in this way and it may be necessary for you to take your child home again. If you have to take your child home, we are happy for you to try again later in the day when all 'social bubbles' are in school. We will continue to work with you to support your child.

What if I have more than one child but they have different time slots?

Where possible we will try and programme your slots at the same time, but this may not be possible and therefore we would expect you to go through the system again. If you have difficulties, then please contact the school office.



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How do I contact the office or a get messages to the staff?

The school office will be closed to all parents/carers and visitors. If you need to speak to a member of staff then please email or phone the office, if appropriate an appointment will be made for you, but otherwise entry into the school will not be permitted.

Can my child come to school with a runny nose or if they are feeling under the weather?

We want to keep all children in our care safe and well, so we are asking that if your child feels even slightly under the weather they do not attend school until they are better. Please call the school office to inform them of your child's absence. If we believe that your child is unwell whilst they are at school, we will contact you to ask you to collect them.

My child has to take regular medication or carry an Epi-pen/inhaler. How do I bring this in to school?

If your child requires regular medication/an Epi-Pen or inhaler, please contact the school office to discuss.

How are you keeping my child safe when they are in school?

We will be using lots of soap and water, as well as lots of anti-bacterial hand gel, on entry and exit, throughout the day, before lunch and at regular intervals.

Children will be placed into new smaller groups, which we are calling 'bubbles'. Your child will work in small 'bubbles' which may consist of 5 - 15 children with 1 adult. They will be taught by this adult all day, every day and remain in the same room for their lessons. 'Bubbles' of children will not be permitted to mix or change - this is so we reduce contact and cross contamination.

Am I able to bring soap and/or hand gel for my child?

We will provide all soap and hand gel for the children. If your child has a medical condition that requires them to use specific soap, please contact the school office before your child's return in order that we can arrange for your child to bring their soap to school.

Will my child be taught by their original teacher?

In most cases, no, however we are going to bring in remote learning across classrooms which means that pupils will be taught by their class teacher remotely and then supported by another adult.

Will my child be in their original classroom?

In most cases, no. We will try where possible to ensure that they have familiarity of their usual environment or that of transition. Before your child comes into school we will send images of the classroom and environment so that the children can become familiar with some of these changes.

Will my child get to play and work with their friends?

Only if they are in the same bubble.

Will my child still have break times and play times?

Yes of course. They will remain in their bubbles and will have designated times slots and areas for their bubble. Staff are working on the types of activities that we can provide for the children, whilst adhering to social distancing rules.



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How will you keep the areas clean?

Working with the cleaners, there will be a greater level of cleaning, with regular deep cleaning across all the school. In every classroom, there will be antibacterial sprays and wipes, gloves, tissues and staff will clean desks and door handles throughout the day.

How will you keep the desks clean?

Children will have access to their own desk and chair or carpet space throughout the day - no other child will use them. These desks/spaces will be 2 metres apart. Staff will regularly spray the desks and chairs down.

What will my child be learning?

We will try to follow the curriculum but a greater emphasis will be put on the basic skills of reading, phonics, handwriting and mathematics as well as PHSE, focussing on transition and PE.

Will home learning still be offered to those year groups not attending school?

Yes, this will continue but will be slightly different due to the teachers now being in school teaching different year groups. We also encourage the children to access the National Oak Academy and BBC online resources as much as possible. We will also continue the phone calls weekly if the children are not in school. If you choose for your child not to attend and they are in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 (when they return on the due date) then we will only be able to offer the BBC online resources and National Oak Academy as the teachers will be in school.

How will you support my child's return to school in September prepare them for transition?

We recognise that all our children will have had a range of learning experiences whilst not attending at school. When the children hopefully return in September, class teachers will assess pupils at the beginning of a teaching unit and then set work appropriate to their ability. We recognise that as a school our role is to close the learning gap as it is expected that children continue their learning journey at the same level as they were when they left in March.

In July we will be communicating with pupils about who their new class teacher will be and which classroom they will be in. We will be sending photographs and an information pack to support transition.

My child has an EHCP, will they continue to get support?

Yes, but this may look and feel different to your child and their offer may be reduced.

My child has been receiving Free School Meal vouchers, will this continue?

If you have been receiving supermarket vouchers and your child is returning to school, these vouchers will stop after May half term. They will receive a free school meal at lunchtime. Please ensure that you order your packed lunch choice online.

If your child is not returning to school, you will continue receiving vouchers.

Will the lunches be hot meals?

No. We will provide packed lunches as it reduces cross contamination of resources and adults across bubbles. All children will eat their lunches in their bubbles. This may change at a later date.



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Can my child change their time slot or bubble group?

No, unless they are in the key worker group and their year group returns at a later date. Once they have moved then they have to remain there.

What happens during half term?

During half term the school we will be closed to all pupils. There will be no home learning set and we will not be phoning the pupils. It is felt that it is important that staff and pupils are able to have a half term. Half term will enable us to ensure that school is fully prepared for the returning pupils. As a school, we will still be here to help support you should you need some help or advice. Our number for general enquiries, which will still be available from 8am until 4.30pm Monday to Friday, is 07873 323253. If you have Safeguarding or welfare concerns, please contact 07395 906020. This number can also be used for emergencies out of school hours.

Might these new routines change?

Yes, like everything at the moment, we will encounter aspects of the plans that work and some that do not and will need to be adapted. Also, when the national picture changes and Government advice changes, we will adapt our plans and arrangements.

We all realise that some of these plans may not meet your needs, but please be absolutely clear, our plans are focused on getting our children back into school as safely as possible. All plans are being risk assessed by myself and Hamwic. We ask that you prepare your children for these changes as positively as possible to make them ready for a successful return.

In the meantime, please send our best wishes to your child and we all look forward to seeing each other very soon. Please stay safe and if you wish to contact me, please do not hesitate to contact me via the office.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Bennett
Head teacher



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