



22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents

I would like to take the opportunity to follow up from my previous letter and to inform you of the guidance and plans for the return of our children to school.

Guidance from the DfE, Local Authority and Bridgeschools has enabled us to make the following plans for the return.

Return dates:

If the government 5 criteria have been met, the phased return will begin with only Y6 on Tuesday 2nd June. We will continue to review safety at every stage and will then look to invite further year groups to phase back in, starting with Y1 and then followed by Reception and then Pre-school. Those year groups will be kept informed.

Drop off and collection:

We have established protocols for minimising adult to adult contact and protecting our children at the start and end of the day. Therefore, there will not be access to the school playground or building for parents/carers.

The school will operate a one-way system to ensure that there can be an efficient way of dropping off and then collecting your children at the end of the day.

Dropping off:

1. We are asking you to enter the school grounds using the main entrance and following the pavement on the left leading to the wooden gate at the playground. This will be signposted and there will be markings to support the social distancing guidance and keeping a safe 2m apart.
2. The children will then need to enter the school playground via the wooden gate. An adult will be there to greet them and to ensure they enter school safely.

3. The parent/carer will then continue to follow the path past the school and up towards the village hall where they will be able to exit from the top gate. Again, there will be signs to support this flow.

Collecting:

1. We are asking you to enter the school grounds using the main entrance and following the pavement on the left leading to the wooden gate at the playground.

This will be signposted and there will be markings to support the social distancing guidance and keeping a safe 2m apart.

2. The children will then leave the school playground via the wooden gate. An adult will be there to support them and to ensure they leave safely.

3. The child with their parent/carer will then continue to follow the path past the school and up towards the village hall where they will be able to exit from the top gate. Again, there will be signs to support this flow.

We politely ask that you please keep your children with you at all times to ensure that social distancing can be adhered to and be respectful of others.

We are asking that all children are dropped off and collected by one adult at the times in the table below:

#### Year Group Drop off Collection

Key worker group 9:00am 3:00pm

Year 6 8:40am 3:10pm

Year 1 8:50am 2:50pm

Reception 9:00am 3:00pm

Please do your best to follow these timings as this will help to reduce congestion and minimise contact with others. I respectfully request that you do not bring other children along for these drop offs and collections and that only the children in the year groups above are entering the school grounds. The highlighted groups will begin on 2nd June.

Also, please bear in mind the timings for Y1 and Reception may be subject to change based on our review of procedures, as the Y6 children settle into the routine these could all be subject to change.

The DfE guidance states that we must ‘make it clear that parents cannot gather at entrance gates or doors, or enter the site (unless they have a pre-arranged appointment, which should be conducted safely).’

In the classroom:

The children's classrooms will look slightly different. The tables will be spread out and there will be less resources. We will be following the guidance and removing some of the toys and soft furnishings in order to minimise risk.

The year groups will be based in their own classroom spaces. The exception being for the children of key workers who will remain together until their own year groups return, they will be based in Class 3.

Rules in school:

There will be new rules for us to introduce to the children in school. These are to ensure that we follow the protocol for things like additional handwashing, playing safely and remaining in our class/group bubble. In order to minimise risk, the children and their teachers will remain as a group at all times. These groups will not mix with other groups in the school. Break and lunchtimes will be timetabled. The children will not have access to other parts of the school other than their designated rooms and of course the outdoors.

The teachers will ensure that they teach, supervise and guide the children through these rules. As with all approaches we take, this will be child friendly and in a positive format. We will quickly establish our social distancing routines.

School uniform:

We request that the children will return to school wearing their uniform, as best as you can. It is understandable that some children may have out grown items and there will, of course, be allowance for this at this particularly challenging time.

To begin with they will not be required to bring a PE kit.

Please however bring a coat; we will endeavour to be outside as much as possible.

What to bring to school:

In order to minimise the transfer of items to and from school, we are asking that the children do not bring in any items except for a lunchbox and drink bottle.

It is important that every child has a filled bottle of water that they can use personally throughout the day.

The children will have resources available for their personal use in school.

Lunch:

Lunches will be eaten in the classroom. We are asking all parents to provide a packed lunch. If your child is entitled to a free school meal, a packed lunch can be provided. Those eligible children who are not in those three returning year groups, will still have access to the vouchers that are currently being used.

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www.bridgeschools.co.uk

### Preparing your child:

It is going to be very important that you take some time to talk to your child about the return to school. They may have questions and may look for reassurance. The information you have received above will hopefully help with this. Due to the short timescale for preparation of the school, we have not yet had the opportunity to move classrooms and add signage etc. We will be carrying this out along with all our health and safety checks in the half term break. We plan to then create a 'welcome back pack', which will be a leaflet for each year group to show what school looks like and will contain photos of the changes.

This will be emailed to Y6 parents, in the first instance, at the end of next week in readiness for the children returning on the 2nd June.

### Symptoms:

Please can we also remind you that you must not send your child to school if they or a member of your household has any symptoms. Please follow the government guidelines and seek advice.

This is an extremely difficult time and we can completely understand that you may have concerns about the prospect of your child returning. The safety of your children and family is paramount. We will in no way penalise children or parents who choose not to attend. The staff will continue to ensure that appropriate home learning work is on the website to support those children who have not yet returned to school. The children who do not attend from the year groups in school, will be able to access the same learning as those who are present.

Continue to take care and when the time is right, we will be looking forward to welcoming back our children.

Yours sincerely

Miss Kelly Edwards

Head of School