

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**Westbury-on-Severn
CE Primary School**

Tuesday 26th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Once again, I do hope you are all well and had a good bank holiday weekend. Despite the lockdown, we have certainly been blessed with a good deal of sunshine for our 'daily exercise'. Let's hope it continues for a while longer.

Apologies for what is going to be another **very** long newsletter. This is due to the Government's almost imminent decision to inform the nation that schools will begin to welcome back pupils from Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from next Monday 1st June, providing 'the science' says it is safe to do so. In addition, we will continue to be open to the children of critical workers, where provision has been requested and approved.

The purpose of this letter is to inform those of you sending your children back to school on 1st June, what steps we have taken and what procedures will be in place and enforced, should we get the actual go-ahead on May 28th to reopen to the year groups stated above. I hope you will find the information below helpful, as those of you who have chosen to send your children back to school, prepare to do so. I will be placing the school's risk assessment on the website if you are interested in reading it!

The preparations we have been making and the safeguards we have been putting in place have been vast and quite difficult. It is fair to say that it will only be with your continued support and adherence to the information set out below, that we will be able to make the reopening work successfully for those children who will be attending school. At present, we do not know about plans for the wider opening of the school to other year groups. Or how we are meant to enable that to happen. We will let you know when we do.

However, despite our best efforts as I wrote in the previous newsletter, I have to make the following very clear:

- I cannot guarantee that your child will not come into contact with anyone else from another year group.
- I cannot guarantee that your child will always keep to the social distance rule of keeping 2 metres apart; especially in YR and Y1, due mainly to the fact that small children find this extremely difficult.
- Face masks will not be worn in school and we will not touch any that you may send your child into school wearing.

I also apologise for the list of points below, but that is the only way I can be certain I haven't missed anything! I am finding it hard even to remember what day of the week it is! I have written them as a list of questions.

For children in Year 2,3,4&5, Mrs Hansen and Mrs Sim will still be working from home and preparing learning activities in consultation with Mrs Roseblade-Bargh and Miss Wills. We haven't forgotten them, so they will still have home-learning tasks to complete and share.

So, thank you once again for your kind words and wishes that so many of you have send in via email. They are a real encouragement to us as we try desperately hard to navigate this difficult time together.

With my warmest wishes to you all,

David Crunkhurn
Headteacher



Should my child return to school on 1st June?

*I draw your attention to the previous newsletter, which detailed the scenarios for sending your child back to school. We have since had communication from all parents/carers of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 regarding attendance. This has now been processed and we have created groups and allocated staff accordingly. We do not expect this to change now. **However, critical workers must inform the school if they would like provision for their children as we may need to reallocate staff to this group of children.***

My child already goes to a child-minder; do they need to attend school as well?

If your child is in Reception, Year 1, Year 6 or you are requesting a place due to being a critical worker, then we expect your child to attend one setting only. It is not recommended that children move around settings as this increases the risk of virus transmission. Guidance is clear that children, when outside their home, should be limited with the groups they come into contact with. Moving a child across different child-care settings could increase the risk of children and staff in school contracting COVID-19. We therefore request that you do not send your children to any other setting if they are attending our school. If this causes difficulty, then you must speak to the school or your employer.

What should I do as a parent before sending my child back to school?

We would be grateful if you did the following:

- *Ensure that school has the most up-to-date contact details for you and most up-to-date emergency contact details. Please remember that if we need to contact you it is important that we can do so straight away. **Please send these in via email to the school admin@ address.***
- *Ensure you have a contingency in place should your child need to leave school because of symptoms of COVID-19 or because they have come into contact with someone else in school who has symptoms of COVID-19. Whilst we are doing everything we can to minimise the possibility of COVID-19 entering our building, we do not guarantee that it won't. Therefore, it may become necessary to close all or part of the school for deep cleaning, at short notice.*
- *If we need you to come to school because of an emergency, such as your child displaying symptoms of COVID-19, **it is essential** that you are able to come straight away. You must explain this to your employer. **There must be no delay** if you are requested to pick up your child from school.*
- *Ensure that your child does not bring anything into school except a lunchbox containing their lunch and a mid-morning snack. **Toast Bar will not be operating. They should not be bringing a rucksack to school as this will be unnecessary.***
- *Ensure that clean school uniform is worn daily. **From 1st June all children of critical workers will be expected to attend school in clean school uniform as well.** However, I am aware that presently it may be difficult to source any new shoes. If this proves a challenge, then trainers will be fine if your child has grown out of their school shoes. I do not want you purchasing new shoes for 6 weeks, when you may then need to buy shoes again for September!*
- *Ensure that your child has a coat if the weather is cold or overcast. We aim to be outside as much as possible, unless it is raining.*
- *Ensure that you read all newsletters and email communications from the school*
- *Ensure that your child has a pair of named sunglasses, a named sunhat and has sun-cream pre-applied before coming to school. Staff will not administer sun-cream and sun-cream will not be allowed in school. Please be aware that we intend to be out as much as possible during the good weather.*
- *Please talk to your child about the changes that they are likely to see when they come back. Explain that they will not see all of their friends and that learning will be very different. Please reassure them however, that we still care very deeply for them and are looking forward to seeing them in school. (Please use the SWAN sheet and complete the 'Heading Back to School' sheet with your child, take a photo of it and send it*

back to school via email before they start on Monday. This is attached to this newsletter.)

- *Please read the e-book that is attached to this letter with your younger children. It will hopefully settle them.*
- *Talk to your child about social distancing; what it means and why it is important to do this in school.*
- *Talk to your child about good respiratory and hand hygiene. How to sneeze well and the important of not touching the face, mouth or eyes.*
- *Please talk to your child about the importance of following the school code relating to COVID-19. If your child deliberately breaks them, then they may not be allowed to attend for the safety of other people in their classroom and bubble.*

What are the procedures for arriving at school and for collecting my child?

We have looked at several options for arrival and departure, and have agreed as a staff on the following arrangements:

1. ***Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will arrive at school for 8.30am.***
2. ***Children of critical workers will arrive at school for 8.45am, unless they have a sibling who is arriving at 8.30am.***
3. *Only **one person from your household** should bring your children to school. They should not be picked up or dropped off by someone outside your household.*
4. *You will wait at the bottom of the lane, where a member of staff will receive your child and watch them walk up the lane to the school. This is to minimise adults congregating outside the school gate and should prevent children from being in unnecessary contact with each other when walking up the lane to school. (Sorry!)*
5. *Another member of staff will be waiting by the black gate to direct your child to their new entrance into their classroom.*
6. *At the entrance to the classroom another member of staff will greet your child and administer hand sanitiser. Your child will then remove their coat and place their lunchbox in their designated space. In order to minimise contact at this time with other children along the narrow corridor, lockers will not be used.*
7. *Your child will then be escorted to wash their hands ready for the day. This activity will be repeated many times during the day, especially before eating snacks or lunch.*
8. *Your child will remain in their classroom for the majority of the day. However, where possible, there will be many opportunities for time outside.*
9. *Any snacks brought from home will be eaten in the classroom during children's break time.*
10. *Lunch will be eaten together in the classroom.*
11. *At the end of the school day, you will wait at the bottom of the lane, where a member of staff will bring your child to you. Again, this is to minimise adults congregating outside the school gate and should prevent children from coming into unnecessary contact with each other when walking to meet you. (Sorry again!)*
12. ***Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be collected at 2.45pm.***
13. ***Children of critical workers will be collected at 3pm, unless they have a sibling who will be leaving at 2.45pm.***

Can I order a school lunch for my child?

*Caterlink – the company that provide meals to our school – **will not be providing hot school meals.** They will provide, if requested, a packed lunch. This will consist of the following:*

- *Half a baguette with a choice of ham, cheese, or tuna filling*
- *A piece of fruit – no choice*



- A piece of cake or a biscuit – no choice
- A bundle of salad sticks, e.g. cucumber sticks, or carrot sticks, or pepper sticks – no choice

Packed lunches will be free as part of the government's universal free school meals offer to all Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils, all other pupils will be charged for this packed lunch. Alternatively, you can send your child in to school with a packed lunch you have provided.

Will my child need a PE kit?

Children in Reception and Year 1 must come to school on Mondays wearing their PE kit. They should have a tracksuit over the top in case the weather is cold. They will not need to get changed out of and into their school uniform on this day. **The same will apply to Children in Year 6 and children of critical workers, however their PE day will be Friday.** All other days the children will wear their school uniform.

Will my child still take part in 'Welly Wednesday'?

No. Whilst we may use the Welly Wednesday area for some outdoor learning, we will not be operating this as Welly Wednesday. Children will therefore **not** need to bring a Welly Wednesday kit with them.

Can my child take books home to read?

Yes. We intend to send children home on Friday with a collection of books appropriate to their reading level. This may well have changed over the past 10 weeks. These books will be sent home and should be returned together the following Friday **in a plastic bag**. These books will stay isolated for 3 days, before being opened, disinfected and returned ready for other children to use. Your child will have daily access to reading material in school, which will have been cleaned before use.

Will the children be able to play together?

In order to comply with the Government's guidance on social distancing and reducing transmission of COVID-19, the children will be kept together in what has become known as their own 'bubble'. Their bubble will consist of a very small group of children from their own class. They will have a designated adult with them, and they will not move outside their bubble where at all possible. This means that Reception and Year 1 children, who are in the same classroom, will be divided into smaller groups. These smaller groups will have limited social contact with other children in the same class. This will reduce transmission rates and make it easier for us to comply with Government guidance. Children in Year 6 will have similar bubbles, but maybe not so small. Children will not mix socially with children in other classrooms. For example, Reception and Year 1 children will not mix with children in Year 6. The children will remain within their bubble for break times and lunchtimes. We will be delivering our daily acts of worship via Zoom from the headteacher's office (If it works!) so there will be some virtual linkage taking place.

Due to the infrequent attendance of most critical worker's children, we will be keeping these together as a group, again, separating them out as adult to pupil ratios allow.

Can I come in to the school at all?

Unfortunately, we will be restricting access to the school for all but essential visits, such as deliveries or post-persons. If you need to contact the office, we would ask that you do so via email or phone. If you must come to the school office, then you may only do so if you have been asked to by the school, or because you need to deliver something that cannot be given to the member of staff on arrival to school.

If for exceptional reasons you need to come to the school, then you must come to the entrance foyer, apply hand sanitiser and speak to Mrs Cox through the closed hatch. Mrs Cox will direct you further if needed.

We love you all, but at this time, we have to comply with the Government's guidelines for keeping the children and adults in school safe. With many more people in school, the risk of transmission of COVID-19 is far greater than it is at present.

Will adults in school be wearing PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)?

Staff will only wear facemasks, and other PPE if they are having to deal with a child who is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or has a medical issue which requires first aid, such as a minor injury like a cut or a graze which needs cleaning and attention. This is due to the close proximity and contact we may need to have with the child. The following is taken from Government guidance to schools and Early Years settings:

'The majority of staff in childcare settings will not require PPE, beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed for children whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE, or if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained from any child displaying coronavirus symptoms.'

Can my child wear a facemask in school?

We strongly advise against this. All guidance has stated that this is not necessary in school. The wearing of facemasks will cause them to become wet, therefore leading to harbouring of germs – not just COVID-19. Children are very likely to touch their facemasks and then touch other objects and possibly each other. This is not helpful in reducing the risk of transmission and may lead to the spreading of unnecessary body fluids on objects or surfaces the children are using. Staff have been told they must not touch other people's face masks, which means that they cannot be adjusted or made comfortable if a child is distressed by them.

What should I do if someone in my household is unwell or has symptoms of COVID-19?

If you, or anyone in your household becomes unwell with symptoms of COVID-19, then you **MUST** follow all the guidance around isolation and **NOT** send your child to school. You and all your household should go for testing within three days of symptoms beginning. Your child should only return to school if everyone in your household has tested negatively for COVID-19.

If your child is unwell for other reasons other than COVID-19 – remembering that other childhood illnesses are still around – then you should follow the same process that exist at the moment in school. If it is a sickness bug, then stay at home for 24 hours from the last bout of vomiting, this should be 48 hours if this is combined with diarrhoea.

What do I do if I have made the decision not to send my child back to school?

All parents who have a child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 have indicated already whether or not they will send their child back to school from Monday 1st June. Even so, if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, you **MUST** inform the school **daily** if your child is **not** attending for any reason. This is a safeguarding requirement of the school. We can therefore make sure we enter the correct code in the register for your child. As stated in my previous newsletter, there is currently no penalty being issued if you choose to keep your child at home.

What will happen if my child starts to display symptoms of COVID-19 whilst in school?

We understand that this may be a worrying time for your child so it is important that they are told about what might happen if they feel unwell as the procedures for dealing with this in school will feel and look very strange indeed. If this happens then the following actions will be taken:

1. Staff will put on PPE and remove your child from the classroom and isolate them in the learning zone (Small room at the bottom end of the school).
2. They will be made comfortable and then monitored from behind the closed door.
3. You will be informed and then asked to collect your child immediately.
4. Upon your arrival, you will be met by a member of staff and escorted round the back of the school to collect your child. You will not be expected to enter the school building.
5. You will be asked to monitor your child and book for your household to be tested. Your child will not return

to school until this has happened and either completed the required period of self-isolation with your household, or a negative test has been returned.

- 6. Due to the need to control transmission, we will need to inform the rest of the adults and parents of other children, that have been in contact with your child as they may need to go for testing.*
- 7. If your child has a negative test returned, then they no longer need to be at home and can return to school.*

How regularly will the environment be cleaned?

The whole school environment will be subjected to a daily clean as normal. Our cleaning contractor is exceptionally thorough in ensuring that all areas where there have been children are disinfected daily. In addition, staff will be carrying out ongoing cleaning throughout the day. This will be especially the case before times when the children will be eating, such as snacks at break time and at lunch time. The school will be subjected to a deep clean during each weekend.

If anyone displays symptoms of COVID-19, then we will follow the guidance set out in the Government document 'COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings'.

This all sounds a little scary and I'm not sure how my child will react?

It does indeed. However, please be assured we have not changed in who we are. We love our school, pupils and you as parents. We will be doing EVERYTHING we can to make sure that the children can still enjoy coming to school whilst learning a 'new normal' as it has been phrased. Mrs Noad will still be providing lots of emotional literacy support in school, but she will also have her own 'bubble' to work with. If any child does get worried or distressed, we will be providing the same support and care that we always have. We will never keep a child at arm's length when they are upset because that is not why we entered this profession. But we will always make sure that everyone is as safe as possible.

We are still available to you to answer questions and worries; it will just be through phone or email. However, if we can face-to-face you, whilst maintaining social distancing, we will. We are just conscious that sometimes conversations at a distance are not always great when other people are around!

We all agree that we want the children back in school together, but for the moment, this is how we will be trying to make it work best to keep everyone safe.