



Barn Croft Primary School
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Tuesday 25th August 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope that you have all had a most enjoyable summer holiday.

I know that all of us at Barn Croft are so excited about the return to school on Monday 7th September – we cannot wait to see all the children back in school!

However, I know that there might be some anxiety around the return for some of you so I wanted to outline how things will work and try to allay some of these concerns as soon as possible.

From Monday 7th September it will again be compulsory for all children to attend school. If you have any issues regarding this then please do not hesitate to contact us – we are here to talk.

I have tried to write this by thinking of the possible questions people might have and so have organized it into a list of questions and answers. I hope it will be useful and I apologise in advance for the length of this letter!

What will dropping off children and picking them look like from 7th September?

Please try to ensure that your child/ren have washed their hands thoroughly before leaving the house.

If you are travelling on public transport and you or your child/ren are wearing a mask, please make sure that the children remove their masks safely before entering the school grounds/gates. This means you should take their mask off and have a bag with you to place the used mask in. Please do not take masks on and off on the school grounds or dispose of masks in school bins as we have a strict procedure in place for the disposal of any potentially contaminated materials.

We will have slightly staggered start and finish times – the gates will be open from 8.50am to 9.10am. We would ask that you try to drop/pick up your children at the following times to avoid any congestion at the gates or around the building. Both gates will be open – Brunel Road and South Access Road entrances. We have decided to stop the one way system around the school grounds to ease entering and exiting the grounds but we ask that you are alert as always to social distancing measures.

Drop off 8.50am – Reception and Year 1. Pick up 3.25pm

Drop off 8.55am – Year 2 and Year 4. Pick up 3.30pm

Drop off 9.00am – Year 3 and Year 6. Pick up 3.30am

Drop off 9.05am – Year 5 and Nursery. Pick up 3.35pm

Children will not be marked as late until 9.15am.

Of course if you have children in different classes then please choose which time is best for you.

Children are to come straight into class and do not have to wait for a bell or form a line. Please be vigilant of any crowding at the classroom door. Children will enter the classroom and immediately go to wash their hands.

We would ask parents and carers to immediately leave the school grounds once they have dropped/picked up their children to avoid any congestion or crowding.

What can my child/ren bring to school?

Coat/jacket

Lunch box/bag

Book bag – which will include books. We will have a protocol in place for changing books and sanitising them.

Change of clothes/underwear if they need it – to be left at school

Wellie boots – to be left at school

Please do not allow your child to bring in toys or games of any kind during this period of coronavirus restrictions.

Will the children still have PE and Outdoor Learning?

Yes – all classes will have PE and Outdoor Learning and these will be on the same day as follows:

Reception – Mrs Pipe will make arrangements separately with parents when they start back.

Year 1 Thursday Year 2 Wednesday Year 3 Wednesday Year 4 Thursday

Year 5 Tuesday Year 6 Tuesday

We are asking that on this day your child comes to school in clothing that is suitable to be worn for PE but is also suitable for them to be outside in the wildlife area, allotment or the nature reserve. This could be jogging bottoms, trainers and a tshirt and jumper. We are not expecting school uniform on this day but suitable clothing is important. It is not a day for children to wear their “best” clothes. The reason for this is to avoid the children having to changing clothes and so that PE kits are not hanging up in the cloakrooms – this could reduce the risk of transmission.

What will happen at playtimes?

Children will continue to have the same amount of playtime but these times will be staggered for KS1 and KS2 to ensure that there are not so many children in the playground at the same time.

Equipment will be allocated for each class so that the children are not sharing resources across key stages.

The Adventure Trails will be in use from September – they will be cleaned each evening. **We ask that you do not allow your child/ren to use the climbing equipment before or after school for the time being.**

What hygiene controls will be in place?

The children will wash their hands regularly throughout the day. Frequently touched points throughout the school will be cleaned throughout the day eg door handles, door frames, toilets etc. There are also hand sanitizer stations available around the school. Children will be reminded of hand washing techniques and also Catch It Bin It Kill It procedure for using tissues and disposing of them safely. Strict daily cleaning procedures are in place.

What will happen at lunchtime?

The children will continue to eat their lunch in the Hall as before but lunchtimes will be staggered to ensure less children in the Hall at the same time. The adults will be staying with their class and the Hall tables will be cleaned thoroughly after each class leaves. Packed lunch will be eaten in the Hall at the same time as the school dinners so children will still be with their class friends.

We know that Y5 & Y6 will have to wait slightly longer for their lunch so if you want your child to bring in a piece of fruit to eat at playtime then please feel free to provide this – but we can only allow fruit.

Will the school be having Breakfast Club and Tea Time Club?

Yes both of these clubs will be starting from 7th September. Please let the Office know as soon as possible if you wish your child to attend the Tea Time Club 3.30 – 6.00pm. Breakfast Club continues to be a drop-in service from 7.30am.

During these clubs the children will be in small groups which will seek to ensure that children are having as few cross-contacts as possible although of course this cannot be guaranteed.

Will the school be doing after school extra-curricular clubs?

We will not be having these additional clubs in the Autumn Term – we will reassess for Spring Term 2021. The reason for this is because these clubs are for children from different year groups and so it makes it much harder to keep the children in their class “bubbles”.

Instead we will be having after school “catch-up” groups. These will be with their teacher and/or teaching assistant in their own classroom. You will be informed if your child is going to be offered a place in one of these groups. They will not be compulsory but we feel this is the best way to be able to closely identify the needs and gaps in learning of our children and be able to address them in a fun and safe environment.

Will my child/ren continue to be taught if they are having to self-isolate and cannot attend school?

We have been planning since the end of Summer Term how we will ensure that children continue to receive their education in the event of another school closure or if a child has to self isolate for 14 days. We are now set up to deliver home learning via Google and we will be sending out information about this in the first couple of weeks back in September. We will also be training the children in how to use their Google Classroom so that they are ready to start it immediately.

This Home Learning will consist of videos of the teachers teaching a lesson and then the children will complete the set work. We will not be delivering “live” online teaching.

Will I be able to meet with teachers or the headteacher or office staff?

If you need to speak to any member of staff we would ask that you call the Office first of all. This way we can make an appointment to meet with you. These meetings will need to be socially distanced so we need to be able to try and keep to an appointments system so that we have enough room and distance for the meeting to take place safely. Of course, in the event of an emergency we will meet with you immediately.

What should I do if my child/ren has any coronavirus symptoms?

We have written a guide which is attached to this letter and on the school website. Please keep this Quick Reference guide to hand – this tells you exactly when you should keep your child at home and when they can come back to school in case different scenarios arise.

We know that this is going to be the most difficult and stressful aspect of the return to school for parents. We would ask that you do not bring your child into school if they are feeling unwell. If a child is in school and say they have a headache we would always take their temperature. If their temperature is raised we now have no choice but to call the parent to come and collect them. There is then an obligation for the parent to get a test for their child before they are able to return to school. We know that children get slightly raised temperatures all the time for a variety of reasons. Before Coronavirus we would usually keep the child for a while in the First Aid room to see if they just needed a rest and if they felt better then they would stay in school. However now, in this pandemic, we must call the parents to come and collect their child and get a test in order that we are following the guidelines.

None of us have lived through something like this pandemic. We can only follow the guidelines and be as safe as we can be. **We would obviously ask that you continue to follow the guidelines outside of school because this will help to keep everyone safe inside school. This means continuing to social distance and wash hands etc and avoid large gatherings outside of school. Our staff will be doing this in order to keep themselves and the children and families safe inside school. We all need to work as a team.**

The most important thing we can all do from 7th September is to keep communicating. Please contact us if you are worried or concerned and talk it through with us. Please let us know how your child seems to be coping being back at school – you might notice anxious behaviour at home which they are not showing us at school. Please talk to us if you are experiencing challenging behaviours at home once they are back in school – it is going to be really difficult for some children to navigate being back with all their classmates after such a long time. During lockdown communication between home and school was excellent – it was what kept us all going. We would like this to continue.

We know that some children will have gaps in their learning now. We will obviously be working really hard to ensure the children catch up. However, we will not be able to do this until the children are back in a happy, safe and secure learning environment and so we will be focusing on their mental well being and happiness in school over everything else. They need time to re-establish their friendships and relationships with each other and the adults. They need time to re-learn the routines of the day.

And they will probably be exhausted after a day in school. Please ensure that you are working on re-establishing those bedtime routines and getting up in the morning early over the next 2 weeks in order to minimise the shock of the return to normal school day routines.

The school office will be open from Wednesday 2nd September so please contact us if you have any questions. I'm sure I have missed something! I am available 2nd 3rd and 4th September if anyone needs to speak directly with me – just call the office.

In the meantime, please enjoy the last 2 weeks of the holiday. If we get any further updates to the guidance on reopening I will of course let you know.

Best wishes and take care



Tracey Griffiths
Headteacher