



27<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from my letter last week, I am sending out further information about the start of term. There is information about organisation and the school day as well as the process for children developing symptoms.

This information is based on the advice schools have been given from the Department for Education and Barnet Council. As we have seen over recent weeks, this is subject to change and if this is the case, I will let you know either via the newsletter or email. There is a COVID section on the website where I have put links to websites, copies of any letters we send and our risk assessments. In the next few days there will also be some videos to show more about pick up and drop off.

I am sure that some children are feeling a bit apprehensive about coming back but we are so excited to see everyone again.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

See you on Thursday!

Kind regards,

Jude Deasey

### **Why can more children go to school?**

- It is good for children's mental wellbeing.
- It is good for children to socialise with other children.
- School is the best place for them to learn.
- The Government now say that attendance in school is compulsory.

The Government has created a website for parents which you can visit:

[gov.uk/backtoschool](https://www.gov.uk/backtoschool)

### **How are we making sure our school is safe?**

The Government has issued guidance for schools about how they can minimise the risk of transmission which we are following.

- Our cleaning regime will be enhanced during the day to help minimise the risk of transmission.
- We will ask everyone to wash their hands regularly.
- If a child or family member is sick they must not come to school.
- We will be grouping the children together in year groups and then limiting the contact between groups.
- Changing the layout of the classrooms particularly with the children in Key Stage 2 to ensure that the desks are forward facing.
- Maintaining social distance between groups as much as possible.
- We will need your cooperation and support to ensure that the start and end of the school days runs smoothly.
- We will keep windows open, where appropriate, to maintain good ventilation.

### **Does my child have to come to school?**

The Government has made it clear that it is vital for all children to return to school. School attendance is therefore mandatory from September. Shielding was paused on 1<sup>st</sup> August and therefore even the small number of pupils for whom this applies to can also return to school. This also applies to children who live in households with someone who is shielding. If the rates of infection in our area rise, then this may change. The most up to date advice can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/Government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

If your child is unwell or has symptoms of coronavirus, they should not attend school. See **What should I do if my child has symptoms?**

If you have been on holiday to a place where you are required to quarantine on return, you should not return to school, but let us know that is the situation.

### **What are the arrangements for the start of the school day?**

**Reception** parents have been sent separate information about the start of the school day.

**Year 1 and 2** can be dropped off between 8.30am and 8.55am at the gate on Brookside South.

**Year 3 to 6** can be dropped off between 8.30am and 8.55am at the gate on Monkfrith Way.

We are using more entrances than we do usually. This is to help with social distancing without making too many changes to the timings of the school day which would be inconvenient for many parents. Please think carefully about driving and parking around school in a safe way. If there are lots of complaints from neighbours and other parents, we may need to reconsider this.

#### **What if I am late?**

Arriving late for the school is a very disruptive start to the day for children. If you are late please bring your child to the Office and say goodbye to them at the door. There is a one way system which we would ask that you follow. A member of staff will sign them in.

#### **How do I drop off for Breakfast Club?**

You can only bring children to Breakfast Club via the car park entrance from 7.45am to 8.25am. Parents will need to say goodbye at the door. Children at breakfast club will be grouped into their year groups to maintain consistency.

#### **What are the arrangements for the end of the school day?**

The end of the day used to be a very social time, however this will not be able to be the case from September. Please collect your child or children and then leave as soon as possible. If you bring a younger child with you, please ensure they are with you at all times. We are currently in the process of marking the playground so you will know where to stand. There will also be a video sent out in the next few days showing what you will need to do.

**Reception** (when they have started full time) will be collected at 3.10pm. Parents should arrive via the Reception gate on Knoll Drive. One door will be Oak and one will be Willow. We will show you this when you come for your visit in the next two weeks.

**Year 1** should be collected via the Key Stage 1 playground at 3.20pm. Parents should arrive via the entrance on Brookside South (unless they have a child to collect from Reception).

**Year 2K** will be collected via the Willow class Reception entrance at 3.20pm. Please use the entrance Reception gate entrance on Knoll Drive only.

**Year 2P** will be collected via the Oak class Reception gate at 3.20pm. Please use the gate on Brookside South or Monkfrith Way.

**Year 3** should be collected at 3.30pm from the Key Stage 1 playground. Please arrive via the entrance on Monkfrith Way or Brookside South, unless you are picking up a child from Reception.

**Year 4 and 5** should be collected from the Key Stage 2 playground. Please arrive through the gate on Monkfrith Way and follow the one way system (unless you are also collecting a child from another part of school).

**Year 6** will be collected from the car park gate.

If you are picking up more than one child at a time, don't worry, the class teachers will be mindful of this and wait for you to come.

This is an extremely complicated arrangement and there may need to be some changes or flexibility allowed. We are dependent on parents following the instructions and using their common sense to ensure we are all safe.

If you are more than 15 minutes late picking up at the end of the day, your child will be taken to After School Club and you will be charged for the full session.

### **How will I pick up from After School Club?**

Please use the one way system on Knoll Drive (come down the ramp and leave up the stairs). Use the After School Club bell to call a member of staff, your child will then be brought up to you. We are going to trial this system and see how it works. It may be that we make some changes but Mrs Costas will let you know.

### **How will After School Club be different?**

After School Club will be following exactly the same principles as we would do throughout the school day. Children will be split into their year groups and be given a designated zone on different days. Games and equipment will not be shared between groups unless it is cleaned in between.

### **Will school still administer medication?**

If your child requires medicine to be administered or stored at school on a regular basis (e.g inhalers, epipens), please ensure we have medication in school at the start of term.

If your child requires a medication prescribed by your doctor or pharmacist please complete the form on the website and bring it (along with the medication) to the Office.

### **What should my child bring to school each day?**

Your child should have their bookbag, a named water bottle and a snack if they want one. We understand that the Government will be providing a free piece of fruit for children in Reception and KS1 again in September. If your child is in KS2 we would still encourage you to send a snack (fruit and vegetables only) for the middle of the morning. We are changing our arrangements for snack time across the school to ensure that children are sitting down and can wash their hands before and after eating.

Your child should also have their PE kit in school.

Otherwise we would ask that things brought from home are kept to a minimum.

Lots of parents drop things into the Office throughout the day. There will be a box outside the Office to reduce the number of people that have to come into the building during the day.

### **What uniform will my child need?**

We are back in full school uniform from September. One of the key pieces of advice that schools have been given is, where possible, ensure that windows are open. Please ensure your child has a jumper or a fleece in school, in addition to a coat.

### **What will happen at lunch?**

Children will eat with their year groups in the dining room. If your child has a school lunch, we are going to ask that this is pre-ordered to minimise the queueing and allow more effective social distancing. Please click on the link here to order for the first two days back <https://forms.gle/zWWP4W1rggqHT61P7>. This needs to be completed by Wednesday. If you have more than one child, please complete an individual form.

If your child has a special diet menu agreed with ISS, then there will be no change.

If you are choosing to send a packed lunch, please remember that this needs to be a healthy option – no fizzy or energy drinks, chocolate, crisps or sweets etc. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you there should be no nuts in any of the food sent to school, this includes most chocolate spreads and peanut butter. We have a number of staff and children for whom this is extremely dangerous.

### **How do I speak to my child's teacher?**

Usually teachers would be happy to have a chat at the end of the school day, however, this is not going to be possible in the same way in the Autumn Term. If you want to speak to your child's teacher, please call the Office and the teacher will call you back when they can. We will be using the website and the newsletter to share information that you need. In September we will be sending out a videos from the teachers to introduce you to the new year, rather than hold a meeting. There will be further details about how we will be running parent consultations in September.

### **Will school feel different for the children?**

There are some changes which will make school feel a little different (e.g. increased handwashing, changes to the way breaktimes and lunchtimes run, the classrooms will look a little different as we have changed the layout of the spaces, there will be no assemblies). In terms of the content of the curriculum, lessons will continue as normal. We will be delivering the full National Curriculum as we have always have done with some minor changes.

In the newsletter, you will find out how we will be working to build upon all the work that has been done at home over the last few months.

### **Will there be any school trips in the Autumn Term?**

We are not planning on any trips in the Autumn Term, this includes swimming. We have postponed our usual trip to Kingswood until April for Year 5. There will be no Moat Mount trip this year. We will keep these arrangements under review following the Government guidance for schools.

### **What visitors will be allowed into school in the Autumn Term?**

We will be significantly limiting the visitors and volunteers in school to start with. If your child receives a therapy service (e.g. Speech and Language), then this should continue. We are also hoping that some music lessons will be able to start again with additional protective measures. BEAT and your child's music teacher will be in touch when this is possible.

### **What are the symptoms of coronavirus?**

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

### **What will happen if my child develops symptoms at school?**

1. We will isolate them from the rest of the class.
2. We will contact a parent to ask for them to be collected.
3. We will give you advice about how to access a test. The Government guidance says that they will be providing schools with some tests to give to parents to, although we have not received these yet.

### **What should I do if my child displays symptoms at home?**

1. You must not come to school.
2. Book a test using this link <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. All children can be test including children under 5.
3. Contact school to let us know that you have symptoms. This information is vital in ensuring that we can monitor patterns of absence and prevent an outbreak.
4. Isolate at home until you receive your results.
5. If the test is negative, the child feels well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus, they can stop isolating and return to school.
6. If the test is positive, please let us know. You will then be contacted by Test and Trace.

### **What should I do if someone our household displays symptoms?**

1. You must not come to school.
2. Book a test using this link <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.
3. Contact school to let us know that this is the case. This information is vital in ensuring that we can monitor patterns of absence and prevent an outbreak.
4. Isolate at home until you receive your results.
5. If the test is negative your child can stop isolating and return to school.
6. If the test is positive, please let us know. You will then be contacted by Test and Trace.

**What will happen if there is a positive test for a child or member of staff at school?**

If there is a positive test, we will contact the our local health protection team. Together we will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period they were infectious. We will then make contact with those people, send them home (if they are at school) and ask them to self isolate for 14 days.

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child subsequently develops symptoms. The guidance on this can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/Government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>