



'Grow, care, serve, share'



Bathford Church School
Dovers Park
Bathford
BA1 7UB
(01225) 858776
Head Teacher: Mrs Becky Hayter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all that you have done to support your children during the latest lockdown. It has been a challenging time but you have kept going. We can't wait to welcome all of our children back to school on **Monday 8th March 2021** and are writing to update you with regards to the arrangements. Whilst these arrangements largely remain as they were during the autumn terms, we would really appreciate it if you could take the time to read through the information; it is important to remember that we are returning to school at a time of National Lockdown and therefore being aware of and following all of the Covid 19 measures that we have in place remains vitally important in order to protect our school community.

Well-being, Curriculum and Catch Up

Whilst many children may be feeling excited about the return to school, we fully appreciate that for some families, particularly for those whose children have not been in school during lockdown, the return to school after such an extended time away may be challenging and children may well be anxious about returning.

- We recognise that children may have significant social and emotional needs after this period of lockdown. We are planning lots of Thrive/circle time activities to support well-being and reduce anxiety. Teachers will build in opportunities to build relationships, build community and encourage learning behaviour and this will be our focus for the first two weeks.
- Before the current lockdown, our staff team had identified and planned for gaps in the children's learning. When the children have settled back into life at school we will re-assess their current knowledge, skills and understanding and will adapt our catch-up plans for the summer terms accordingly.
- We are looking forward to spending as much time outdoors as we can, hopefully in the sunshine! Forest School will begin on Tuesday 9th March for Class R. Please see the attached timetable
- Susanna and Jeni, our music teachers, will be returning to school from the week commencing 8th March for their piano, recorder and flute lessons.

Covid 19 Testing arrangements

- At the moment primary school children are not being asked to take part in the rapid lateral flow testing programme
- However households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary-age pupils and staff are eligible for twice weekly testing. We would encourage you to take part in this testing in order to help protect our school community.
- In line with the government guidance, these tests for households and support bubbles will not be available from school but can be accessed:
 - through your employer if they offer testing to employees
 - at a local test site
 - by collecting a home test kit from a test site
 - by ordering a home test kit online

Further details including the link to access the online ordering are here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=ca1c659b-95d6-490e-87c6-d6c09e85ecfb&utm_content=daily

- As you know, since the end of January staff have been taking part in twice weekly lateral flow tests at home.



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD



Covid 19 Related Sickness Procedures and First Aid

- It remains vital that we minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that children and staff who exhibit **any Coronavirus symptoms** (a new continuous cough or a high temperature or a loss of or change in their normal sense of taste or smell) **do not** attend school. Please contact us at office@bathford.bwmat.org to inform us.
- Parents/carers must **book a PCR test** as soon as possible if their children are displaying symptoms of Covid 19 and **notify us** of the result. If the result is positive we will follow the guidance provided by BANES Public Health. We may ask other children/staff members who have been in close contact with your child to stay at home and isolate if this test is positive. **Getting children with symptoms tested is a really important measure in protecting our school community and we ask for your support with this.**
- Children who fall ill during the school day with Coronavirus symptoms will be taken to an isolation room where they will be monitored until they are collected. Parents/carers must then book a test for their child. Until the test result, the child must self-isolate. The isolation period includes the day their symptoms started and the next 10 full days. The rest of the family need to isolate for 10 days. Siblings will also be sent home and will need to self-isolate for 10 days. If a child tests negative, they can return to school as can siblings provided they are not themselves experiencing symptoms.
- If the test is positive, children need to follow the <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance> and continue to self-isolate. Their isolation period includes the day their symptoms started and the next 10 full days. Children can only return to school after this if they no longer have symptoms other than a cough or loss sense smell/taste because these can last for several weeks after the infection has gone. If they still have a temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal.
- Parents will need to engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- Similarly, your child must not come to school if someone in their household has symptoms. If this is the case, please contact us at office@bathford.bwmat.org to let us know. The household member will need to get themselves tested and your child will need to self-isolate until the result.
- If a child tests positive, then we may ask other children/staff members who have been in close contact with your child to stay at home and self-isolate. Should these children/staff members develop symptoms, then their families will also have to enter isolation.
- A record will be kept of visitors and the staff and children that they have had contact with.
- Staff take a first aid kit with them out at playtimes, containing PPE, to avoid the need for staff and children to return to the school building.

What to wear and bring to school

- Please send children in school uniform.
- Children should not bring their PE kits but should come to school 'PE ready' on PE coach days, e.g. already in PE kit and trainers, in order to minimise risk associated with changing clothes in close proximity. PE Coach days this term are as follows: Thursday Y2, YR, Y6 Friday Y3, Y4, Y5.
- Children should only bring these essential items to school: coat, jumper, lunchbox, bag/reading folder, reading book, named water bottle, sun hat if appropriate. Children should not bring in other items, for example for 'Show and Tell,' toys or pencil cases. In the event of sunny weather, please apply all-day sunblock to children, as we will not be able to apply sun cream in school. Please note that windows and doors will be open wherever possible, so a jumper is highly recommended.
- Please ensure any medication your child requires is given to the school office; you will need to fill out a medicine parental agreement if you have not already done so.

Staggered times, entrances and exits

- The government expectation is that all pupils return to school from 8 March and attendance is mandatory.
- In order to reduce the number of people on the school premises at any one time, there will continue to be a staggered drop off and pick up time with allocated entrances/exits for each year group remaining as they were in the autumn term.

Birdcage Walk Entrance			Dovers Park Entrance			Driveway Path Entrance		
Year group	Drop-off	Pick-up	Year group	Drop-off	Pick-up	Year group	Drop-off	Pick-up
Year R	9.00am	3.15pm	Year 1	8.40am	3.00pm	Year 4	8.50am	3.05pm
Year 2	8.50am	3.05pm	Year 3	9.00am	3.15pm	<small>*Year 4 parents should not need to enter the school site</small>		
Year 6	8.40am	3.00pm	Year 5	8.50am	3.05pm	Please maintain social distancing		
Please maintain social distancing			Please maintain social distancing					

- Children should be accompanied to and from school by **only one parent/guardian per family**.
- All adults and children in Year 7 or above (e.g. older siblings) should **wear a face covering** on the school site, including the playground. This includes the area next to the car park (Y4 drop off point) and pavement areas adjacent to the school gates.
- For your information, school staff on the playground at drop off/collection will also be wearing face coverings. All staff will also continue to wear face coverings in the communal indoor areas of the school with face coverings optional for staff within the classroom. All visitors to the school site are asked to wear face coverings.
- Please walk, cycle/scoot to school or park at a good distance from the school. Please do not stop on the pavements or pull in to the school drive as this puts the safety of our children at risk.
- We ask that you endeavour to arrive on the school playground at the allocated time, trying not to arrive too early as this makes the staggering arrangements less effective.
- If your child is late and the gates are locked, they will **need to go to the office**.
- If you have children in more than one class, you can drop both of them off at the earlier time.
- When waiting, please keep a distance of at least 2 metres from other families. Please hold younger children's hands, so that they do not run around and play, or access the decking area, but stay distanced, like you. They must not play on any equipment whilst waiting. Your child will be brought out by an adult and handed over to you.
- Please leave the school premises as soon as you have dropped off or collected your child, to allow good distancing for the next group. Gatherings in the playground or at the school gates are not allowed under current laws.
- If you need to speak to someone in the school office, please telephone from home or email/use Teams/Dojo/Tapestry. It will not be possible to allow adults into the school without a pre-arranged appointment.
- Please ensure your child brings everything they need with them in the morning, as this will ensure parents are not re-visiting school unnecessarily to drop off forgotten items.

Lunch times

- Our kitchen will be open and we will be offering hot meals. Please see attached menu.
- As part of the Universal Free School meal scheme, lunch will still be provided free to all Reception and KS1 children. KS1 children may choose to bring a lunchbox from home.
- KS2 children may choose a hot meal or may bring a lunchbox from home.
- KS2 children will need to bring a healthy snack for morning break, KS1 children will have fruit provided.
- Water fountains around the school have been turned off.
- **All children need to bring a named water bottle to keep on their desk.**



- Lunches will be eaten in the hall with staggered lunch times and groups separated through distancing. Hall supervisors will place trays at tables, ready for children, so they do not need to queue. Tables will be cleaned between each group.

Minimising contacts and maintaining distancing

- Children will stay within their class-sized groups all day and will be kept apart from other groups.
- Government guidelines currently state that distancing between children is not required in classrooms where it is not possible but older children will be encouraged to keep their distance from staff where possible. It is not expected that younger children distance within their group.
- Classroom layouts will be adjusted to minimise face to face contact, with older children seated side by side and facing forwards and any group tables for younger children organised such that children facing each other are distanced.
- Children will receive regular reminders of rules (e.g. use of toilet, moving around classroom and school, use of playground) and positive adherence to these rules will be linked to our school behaviour management system and Class Dojo.
- The school corridor has been marked out with lines on the floors at 2 metre distances, to help older children to distance from other year groups and from staff.
- Playtimes and other movements around the school will be carefully planned so that there will be minimum interaction of different groups, even those that may be using outside areas at the same time. Lunch and break times will be staggered with a maximum of three groups outside at one time and kept in separate areas. Children will use different entry and exit points to avoid mixing in the corridors.
- Staff (including Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) teachers and Teaching Assistants) can work across different groups but will be expected to keep their distance, where possible, avoiding face to face contact.
- 1:1 support will still be provided where appropriate, but with staff avoiding close face to face contact by positioning themselves side to side and minimising the time spent within one metre of anyone where possible.
- Any intervention groups, PE coaching or specialist teaching will take place in large, ventilated spaces or outdoors and will not mix class groups.
- Controls will be in place to reduce contacts within and across groups, e.g. the use of outdoor play equipment will be on a rota with only one class using it each week, resources will not be shared between groups, any individual play items (such as skipping ropes, hula hoops etc.) will not be shared and will be cleaned before re-use, children will be given individual stationery, wipeable plastic cushions will be used to sit on in place of rugs in KS1, etc.
- There will be no whole school physical gathering such as koinonia (assembly) and this will be delivered through Teams to classrooms instead.
- Staff will continue to attend meetings, such as staff meetings, virtually (via Teams) where possible.
- There will be as much outdoor education as possible.
- Children will be allowed to bring home reading books and these will be cleaned/quarantined on return
- Teachers will mark children's books, washing hands regularly, although verbal feedback will also be used as much as possible.

Hygiene and ventilation

- Please send children to the toilet and ensure they wash their hands before coming to school.
- Children will wash their hands on arrival, before departure, after toileting, after every break and before and after lunch time. Younger children will be monitored when hand washing.
- There will be staggered toilet use and every year group will have their own designated toilet. Children will be instructed to wait outside toilets if their cubicle is in use.
- We have good supplies of liquid soap, hand towels and tissues and have turned our hand dryers off.
- There will be regular hygiene reminders with regards to handwashing for at least 20 seconds with soap and running water or hand sanitiser, as well as 'catch it/bin it/kill it' and signage around school.
- Children in primary schools do not need to wear a face covering.
- Staff will wear PPE when administering any first aid or personal care to pupils.

- Windows and doors will be open wherever possible, with due regard to fire regulations (key fire doors automatically release when the alarm is activated) and maintaining a comfortable temperature for the children.

Cleaning

- We have increased the number of hours our school cleaners, Imperial Cleaning, are working, including cleaning staff coming in over the lunchtime period.
- All frequently touched surfaces, equipment, door handles and toilets used during the day will be cleaned often and thoroughly.

Wrap around care and extra-curricular clubs

- Wrap around care will be open. As a measure of protection against Covid 19 we need to create consistent groups of children and therefore need to restrict numbers and will not be able to accept ad hoc requests.
- Breakfast club provision will take place in the hall, with the space divided into two zones. Each year group will have their own table for eating and box of resources for play. These resources will be cleaned at the end of each session. The Yr R-2 tables will be in one half of the hall and the Y3-6 tables will be in the other half of the hall.
- In response to parent demand, breakfast club hours will revert to beginning at 7.30am and will run Monday to Friday, during term time
- After school provision will take place in two groups Yr R-2 and Y3-6. Y3-6 will be in the ICT suite (staff to wipe tables/ keyboards before use) and some of the club time will be spent doing homework. Yr R-2 will be in the hall. After School Club will run from 3.15pm to 6pm every day EXCEPT FRIDAYS.
- Where possible, children will be taken outside.
- Breakfast club parents will need to drop off children at the hall outside door, where a member of staff will greet the child. Parents will not be able to enter the school.
- After School Club parents will collect Yr R-2 from outside the hall door and Yr 3-6 from the external ICT suite door.
- For the remainder of this term we will not be running any other extra-curricular clubs in order to minimise risks to our school community.
- Please be advised, the government is encouraging parents to limit the number of settings their child attends in order to prevent the mixing of groups.

Remote learning

- For any children who are unable to return to school due to shielding or self-isolation, Teams will be used to support remote learning.
- We will shortly be sending you Forms feedback questionnaire on our remote learning provision and we would be really grateful if you could complete this to help us to identify strengths, areas for development and how we might take this learning forward.

If you would like to read our full risk assessment, this is accessible on our website on the Parent Information tab.

<https://bathfordchurchschool.co.uk/parent-information/>

We are hoping to reinstate the use of Class Dojo in preparation for the return to school and will shortly be sending a consent form for you to complete.

Thank you, as always, for your support during these challenging times. We very much look forward to welcoming our children back to school on 8th March.

Kind Regards,



Headteacher



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

