



## Blenheim Primary School

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8<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of a very strange academic year, I wanted to let you know about some of the initial plans we have devised ready to welcome all children back to school in September. Firstly though, there's a few points I'd like to update you on.

### **Staffing Updates:**

At the end of this term, we are very sorry to be saying goodbye to Mr Williams. Mr Williams has worked with us for two years as a Sports and PE Coach as well as the Classroom Teaching Assistant in Year 5. Mr Williams is going off to University to complete his teaching qualifications; we are confident he will go on to have a very successful career and I'm sure you'll join me in wishing him the very best of luck on his new endeavours.

We are delighted to confirm that we will be welcoming Miss Kenny as a full-time permanent member of our teaching team. Miss Kenny has worked at Blenheim in Year 1, Year 4 and Year 6 at various points over the last few years so we are thrilled she is joining us and will no doubt be a wonderful addition to our school.

### **Transition**

Information regarding your children's new Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants will be made available next week. A video will be posted allowing children to find out who their new teacher will be – this will also be accompanied by a transition pack which will include photographs of the staff your child will be working with as well as the classroom they'll be based in. This will be attached to your child's formal end of year report which will be posted to you next week.

### **End of Term**

Please may I take this opportunity to remind you that school closes for the Summer Term on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 12.30pm. Children will be provided with lunch prior to collection.

### **Covid-19 Measures – September 2020**

Last week, the Government released guidance to schools identifying what they expect schools to look like in September. We are currently working on ensuring that these plans are fully risk assessed so that we can welcome back the whole of our school community in a safe way. Realistically, the many measures that we have already introduced around Bubbles, reducing mixing between groups, staggered start and ends to the school day, break and lunch times changed to reduce large numbers of children gathering, no assemblies etc – these will all likely continue. Additional details around our plans are listed below however, please note, as before, our plans and confirmation to open further to wider year groups for September are still



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subject to approval. However, I do hope that by the end of term, I will be able to confirm that our plans for reopening to all pupils have been approved and will be going ahead.

### **BLenheim PLANS FOR REOPENING – SEPTEMBER 2020**

#### **Induction Week:**

As we had earlier this term when we began the processing of reopening, we intend to run induction mornings for the year groups of children who have not already returned to school. We had lots of positive feedback from pupils, parents and staff about this and it means that those first few days can be spent familiarising themselves with the changes that we've made with a slow adjustment back in to school life. The timetable below gives more information about how this will work in September.

<i>*If your joining</i>	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	SCHOOL CLOSED – HOLIDAY	<i>child is us in</i>
	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	SCHOOL CLOSED - HOLIDAY	
	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS	
	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Welcome Back Year 1 and Year 2 – Full Time Year 5 and Year 6 Induction Morning - 9 - 12.30 <b>School Closed to Years 3 and 4</b>	
	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 1 and Year 2 – Full Time Year 3 and Year 4 Induction Morning – 9 – 12.30 <b>School Closed to Year 5 and 6</b>	
	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	School Reopens to all children Years 1 - 6	

*Reception, there are different transition starting dates which will be sent out separately.*

#### **Breakfast and After School Club**

We are pleased to confirm our intention of reopening Breakfast and After School Care club from September. In these sessions children from different Bubble groups may be present in the room, however - if it is practical to do so, in line with the guidance, will attempt to maintain the existing Bubbles as much as possible by having different year groups sit separately. In the events where this may not be possible due to pupil numbers and/or ratios – the Government guidance does allow for pupils from different Bubbles to mix where it cannot be avoided. Breakfast and After School Club fees will resume, the details of the new fees can be found below:

Breakfast Club: £2.00  
After School Club: £13.00

#### **Bubbles**

The main changes we can expect for September will be the fact that the 'Bubble' classes which are currently capped at 15 pupils; will be increased – meaning that we will be able to welcome back all children. Each class will effectively represent their own bubble group however schools will have the flexibility to increase the size of these Bubbles to meet the learning needs of our pupils. Please be reassured though that wherever possible, children will be encouraged to remain at a distance where possible. That said however, it is recognised and understood that young children, particularly those in Reception and KS1 may find this difficult and whilst social distancing will be encouraged, it is not an expectation and will not be enforced.

#### **Uniform**

The Government have now advised that from September, the additional measures we have so far had in place around school uniforms are to be relaxed with a return to normal. The Government have also advised that no additional or supplementary washing measures are required from what you would usually do. However, to avoid the need for changing areas to be used, we would ask that children wear to school



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their PE uniform on their designated PE days. This means that children will not be required to change in school.

### **Drop Off and Collection:**

Again, we have received lots of wonderful praise about our new drop-off and collection procedures. For the first part of the Autumn Term, we anticipate that these procedures will continue. Another parent handbook will be released confirming the details of our plans for September which will include where your child will enter the school building. For those who haven't yet returned, please be reassured that staff will be available to support and guide you during our induction mornings in September.

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Drop Off Time</b>	<b>Collection Time</b>
Reception	8.55am	3.05pm
Year 1	8.40am	3.10pm
Year 2	8.45am	3.15pm
Year 3	8.50am	3.20pm
Year 4	8.40am	3.15pm
Year 5	8.45am	3.20pm
Year 6	8.55am	3.20pm

*For sibling groups, children should arrive at school at the specified time of the youngest child. For collection, children should be collected at the specified time for the oldest child.*

*Children will again be entering and exiting the building using various entrances to our building. This information will be shared with you in the parent handbook which will be released.*

### **Classrooms**

Classrooms will be re-equipped to cater for the maximum number of 30 children in each classroom. The Government have advised that schools need to take into consideration the layout and seating arrangements within a classroom; where possible, minimising risk of face-to-face contact (i.e. avoiding sitting in table groups). Therefore, some of our classrooms may look more similar to a secondary style classroom with horse-shoe or row-based seating designs.

### **Stationery Equipment, Resources and Cleaning**

We will continue to provide and source stationery equipment reducing the need for children to share; but most importantly, we will be maintaining and continuing to promote increased hygiene routines including regular hand-washing throughout the school day, sanitising stations in each classroom, regular cleaning of shared spaces, resources and high touch areas. Equipment which has been unavailable throughout the Summer Term such as reading books and book corners will be available again in September; however, these resources will be restricted to the individual classes. We will continue to promote the catch-it, bin-it, kill-it campaign.

### **Breaks Times**

Wherever possible, children will be staying within their Bubble groups at play and lunch times. Breaks will be staggered at different times for different classes.

### **Lunches**

In September, it is likely that our cold lunch menu will remain however given the change of weather at that time of year, we will endeavour to offer hot food. We are currently looking at logistics as to how we can keep the food warm and deliver it to children's classrooms where they will be eating. In line with advice, the school hall will not be used as a canteen for the time being due to risk of crowding and shared spaces.



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Children will still be able to bring with them to school a packed lunch in a disposable carrier bag, or plastic lunch box (which can be wiped down).

### **PPE and Face Masks**

Facemasks and coverings are not advisable in schools, particularly with children aged under 11. Unless handled correctly this could inadvertently increase risk of transmission and can also interfere with and restrict engagement in teaching and learning. In line with guidance, we would encourage you to avoid public transport if at all possible, however if this is unavoidable children should bring with them a carrier-bag to safely store their face-covering in, whilst on school premises. The school will continue its current procedures of First Aiders wearing PPE when treating children and/or when close-contact is required.

### **Movement around School**

In order to support the idea of Bubble groups working across the school; we will continue to have restricted movement around school corridors. Instead, pupils will travel from one part of the school to another using the outside areas. We are very fortunate that each classroom has its own external door which permits this to take place. This is because the risk of transmission is reduced significantly and lowered even further in an outside setting. Where possible we will limit staff working within classrooms and if this isn't possible, our staff will endeavour to maintain social distancing. Existing social distancing markers will remain in place on school grounds to support all of our school users.

### **Parents**

For the Autumn Term, parents will still be unable to come into the school building for example, to visit the school office - unless this has been otherwise agreed. Where possible, contact should continue to take place via phone, email or text message. Parents Evening in the Autumn Term will likely take place via video conferencing but we will contact you nearer the time to confirm arrangements.

### **Attendance**

The Government have announced that school attendance will be a statutory requirement once more and that Penalty Charge Notices may apply for children who do not return. This is because, in addition to the decreasing 'R' number, with the additional control measures and risk assessments schools are undertaking, the risk of infection transmission is low. In line with advice received, from September, our school attendance requirement will be increasing to a minimum of 97% per child. More information will be sent to you at the start of September when we launch our new attendance plan.

### **Curriculum**

We are acutely aware of the impact of Covid-19 and recognise the concerns that you may have on your child's academic outcomes and mental health and wellbeing. Our teachers have been working extremely hard devising catch-up plans based on the priority objectives that your child may have missed due to school closures. Your child's current teacher has been working with their new teacher and a full handover has taken place. Furthermore, we will be supporting children to complete assessments in September and will be working with PiXL (Partners in Excellence) to support us in quickly identifying the gaps and putting in place a programme of support to overcome them. Please be reassured that this increased focus on 'catching-up' will not be at the expense of children's mental health and wellbeing; we have in fact scheduled positivity and mindfulness into the school day and where possible, will continue to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum closely aligned to our usual curriculum offer. We will continue to work with outside agencies ensuring that we foster and support every child.



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As I previously explained, our plans are currently awaiting Trustee approval and are subject to change. Once confirmed, a copy of the parent handbook for September will be sent to you via email confirming the arrangements.

For now, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support over the past few months. I am very proud of everything that we, parents and the school, have achieved through working collaboratively together in what has been very challenging and difficult times. As a parent myself, I am very much aware of the strains and pressures that have come with trying to juggle home-schooling with other commitments – but you have all done such a wonderful job and should be proud of how you've all coped during these truly unprecedented times.

Finally, I'd like to say a sad farewell to some of our families who will be leaving us as their children move on to the next stage of their education career. Thank you for always supporting Blenheim – you'll always be part of our Blenheim family and we wish you and your children well in their next stage of schooling.

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable Summer and look forward to seeing you all in September.

Kindest regards,

Mr Osborn  
Deputy Headteacher



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