



Beddington Infants' School COVID -19 Update

27th August 2020

Dear Families,

I hope you are well.

Thank you for waiting patiently for an update relating to the proposed re-opening of schools.

There is a lot of information to cover so this letter is in two parts.

It will not surprise you to hear that we have spent a very long time thinking through every possibility as the welfare of the children and adults in our school community (and that includes you) has to come first.

The plans below are based on our very positive experience of re-opening the school from 2nd June.

In line with Government expectation we will be opening fully to all children.

The Breakfast Club and The Grange After School Club will be re-opening.

Doubling the number of children and families on site has needed further consideration so some aspects will be different from before the holidays so please read the following carefully.

[Nursery and Reception](#)

Families have received information about the school visits which have replaced the traditional home visits. One family will visit at a time. We hope that you and your child will find the visit useful and we're looking forward to meeting you!

[Children in Years 1 and 2](#)

All children will be returning to school on Thursday, 3rd September. Please see below for details of how that will work.

Please understand that any plans we make at this time are subject to change.

Liz Kearney

Essential Information about your Child's Return to School

Pods/Groups

The Government has advised that children return to school using a Pod system, and we will be adhering to those guidelines. This system has been designed to minimise contact with others.

Having considered our learning environment and the logistics of offering a meaningful, age-appropriate learning experience, we will be running **Year Group Pods** ie three classes of 30 children. Many schools will be working in year groups as it is the most practical long term option.

If your child shows symptoms of COVID-19 please inform the school office as soon as possible. If a child or adult in the year group shows symptoms of COVID-19 we will let you know and contact the Local Authority who will advise us of the most up to date course of action to take.

Please check your child's temperature each morning before bringing your child to school.

Social Distancing

The Government has acknowledged that it is not possible (or appropriate) to ask young children to stay 2 metres apart. Learning across the year group inside and outside, will mean that they will be spread out but we're not going to traumatise them by demanding that they step away from each other if they draw close. Activities will be spread out to encourage distance and the learning environment will continue to be well ventilated and cleaned thoroughly.

Timetable for Re-Opening

Wednesday, 2nd September will be a day for staff to prepare for the return of the children.

All children in Years 1 and 2 will be welcomed back on Thursday, 3rd September. Children in Nursery and Reception will join us after the school visits.

Beginning and End of the School Day

There will be a **one-way system** to limit contact. **As before, the entrance for everyone, will be through the blue gate by Bond Gardens and exit for everyone will be through the brown gate usually used by families of children in Nursery and Reception, to the right of the school office.** You will see that we have new signs around the site. The sign on the blue gate says that it is for children in Years 1 and 2. The sign relates to a time when we will no longer have a one-way system.

Other things to note:

- While we would encourage you to keep a distance between you and other families we are aware that the larger volume of people will make that more difficult, so we are encouraging the adult who is dropping off and/or collecting the child to wear a face mask. Staff welcoming the children will wear a visor so that the children will be able to see their facial expressions. Most staff will remove the visor once everyone is ready for learning to begin. We are aware that some people will not be wearing masks for valid reasons.
- Children should be dropped off and collected by **one adult only please.**

- Please leave the site as soon as possible to reduce congestion.
- We are very lucky that our school is designed with toilets and wash basins in each classroom. This makes washing hands throughout the day very easy. As there will be 30 children in each class, we will have hand-sanitiser at the classroom door to avoid congestion at the basins at the beginning of the day. Please help your child to use the hand sanitiser before entering the classroom. They will use soap and water for the rest of the day.
- We are very aware that you and your child will be building relationships with new members of staff and becoming familiar with a new learning environment. At the end of the school day families of children in Years 1 and 2 are welcome to visit the classroom if you would like to. Please wear a mask and use the hand sanitiser before entering the classroom. The classroom will be cleaned thoroughly afterwards.
- We are aware that this is an especially testing time for those of you with children joining us in Nursery and Reception. You will be able to take your child into the learning environment at the beginning of the session as long as you wear a mask and use the hand sanitiser before entering the classroom. You will also be welcome to go into the classroom at the end of the day, again, having used the hand sanitiser and wearing a face mask.

Timings

Schools are being asked to stagger the start and end times of the day to avoid crowding. We are aware that many of you have more than one child, and that there is no benefit in asking families from one year group to queue if the gate is open; for that reason, the timings below are **suggested** in an effort to spread the group. **The morning gate will close at 9am and the afternoon gate will close at 3.25pm. In the unusual event that you miss the gate please go to the school office.**

| | Years One and Two | Nursery and Reception | In total |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Start of the Day | 8.40 – 8.50 | 8.50 – 9.00 | 8.40 – 9.00 |
| End of the Day | 3.05 – 3.15 | 3.15 – 3.25 | 3.05 – 3.25 |

Uniform and Personal Belongings

Children should wear school uniform as our aim is to keep things as familiar as possible. All items of clothing must be washed every evening. We have good quality second-hand uniform donated by families. Please email or phone the office to let them know what items/size you require and they will let you know if we have them. If anyone has uniform at home that your children have grown out of please wash it, put it in a bag to the left of the blue gate as you come in. Mr Forbes will store it for 72 hours (if the bag is plastic).

Your child should have a **clear, named water bottle** in school please.

Your child should have a **named sun hat that will stay at school** please.

Your child is welcome to wear a mask but please spend time at home practising wearing it as putting it on and off increases rather than decreases the chance of infection. For those of you who are new to the school it might help you to know that no children or members of staff wore masks in June and July.

As you know, reading every evening has an enormous impact so children will take a reading book home. Children in Years 1 and 2 should bring a book bag to school every day. As reading books are returned they will be taken out of circulation for up to 72 hours before other children take them. We will reintroduce the blue Home/School Book as a form of communication.

Children in Years 1 and 2 only

Your child should bring a **PE Kit** to school in a cloth bag with a string please. Every item must be named please! The kit will stay at school until the half-term holiday when it will go home to be washed. As outlined in the Uniform Policy on the website, the PE Kit can be any colour so that the children don't get them mixed up.

Wrap-around care

Breakfast Club will be re-opening. There are three members of Breakfast Club staff so they will have a year group pod each. The children were extremely sensible about staying in pods before the holidays. There will be markings on the hall floor to show the children where their area is.

Staff will not be able to take cash at the door so please pay in advance on ParentPay. Please contact the office if you need any help. The office will be fully open from Wednesday, 2nd September.

The Grange (After-School Provision up to 6pm and during holidays – except Bank Holidays)

The Grange is ready to welcome children back. They will continue to collect the children from school. They will form a second bubble (as per Government guidance).

Jenny Henry is finalising a letter with more information which will be added to their website. For Admissions/Bookings please phone 020 8770 4300.

After School Clubs

We will open the rest of the school first and then consider reintroducing after school clubs. These clubs usually run in our school hall and Dance/Drama Studio. Coaches run these clubs between 3.15 and 4.15. We will be in touch when we can find a way to make them work.

Curriculum

Our aim is to return to learning as soon as the children are ready. Staff are currently planning activities and lessons to support the children in settling back into class with a view to supporting their well-being, while reintroducing academic learning as soon as possible; after all, the children love learning!

School Lunch

School dinners will continue to be cooked on site. If your child has a packed lunch please ensure the lunch box is named and is washed every evening.

The playground will be timetabled so that Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have turns with play equipment allocated to each year group. Climbing equipment (including the new climbing frame which will be installed soon – thank you Beddington Buddies!) will be on a rota for a week ie a year group will use it for a week and then a different year group the following week leaving the weekend to ensure that it is ready for the next year group. **Children should not use the playground equipment at the end of the school day as they are not insured, and because they would contaminate it.**

Medication

As always, if your child is on medication, please take the medication to the office and complete a form.

Communication

Most communication at the moment will be via phone or email. This is not going to be easy for you or for us but we will find a way to make it work.

I will be in touch very soon regarding arrangements for Open Evening appointments etc. Miss Smith is currently collating Dates for the Term which will be with you very soon.

We will work to reduce the need for you to visit the school office, but if you do need to please do. One person will be allowed access at a time. Please stay at least 1+ metre apart when queuing. If you need to write something in the office, we will provide a pencil but please put it in the container nearby when you have finished so that it can be cleaned.

We are genuinely looking forward to welcoming you back to Beddington Infants' School!

If there is anything we can help you with please let us know. The school office reopens on Wednesday, 2nd September.

Liz Kearney