



# Brackenwood Junior School

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing to you today with information regarding the reopening of Brackenwood Junior School to all pupils on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. It goes without saying how much we have missed the children since the beginning of the Spring term, and how much we are looking forward to welcoming them back into school. Essentially our approach to opening safely to all pupils remains unchanged, and the information shared here is a reminder of some of the measures and arrangements which we had in place before Christmas.

## **Dropping off and Collecting**

Drop off and collection times and locations are unchanged and will continue to be staggered to minimise contact between the bubbles. The drop off and collection times and locations are as follows:

	<b>Drop off time/point</b>	<b>Collection time / point</b>
Year 3	9:00 Main Entrance	3:40 Door by 6B Collection point: Upper playground
Year 4	8:50 Main Entrance	3:30 4K external door Collection point: Lower playground
Year 5	9:00 Canteen Entrance (accessed from playground)	3:40 Canteen door Collection point: Lower playground
Year 6	8:50 6W: Canteen Entrance (accessed from playground) 6B: Entrance by 6B	3:30 6W and 6B: Door by 6B Collection point: Upper playground

Your child should enter school at their allocated drop off time and location and make their way straight to their classroom, where they will wash/sanitise their hands.

If you are dropping off or collecting outside of the above times, please come to the front door.

To help to minimise the spread of the virus, we ask that parents adhere to the following:

- Children, parents or carers are not to enter the school if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus.
- When dropping off and picking up, only one parent should attend
- Please do not gather at entrance gates or doors, or enter the site (unless you have a pre-arranged appointment, which should be conducted safely) and be mindful of social distancing.
- Please send your child into school with a water bottle, as the water fountains will be out of use.
- Children should wear school uniform.
- The canteen will be fully operational at lunch time, providing hot and cold meal choices. Alternatively, your child can bring a packed lunch.
- The canteen will not be providing morning snacks so you are welcome to send a healthy snack into school with your child. Any snack provided must not contain nuts.

We appreciate your help and understanding. A full reopening plan has been sent out alongside this letter and provides further information.

## **Health and Safety Measures**

All the measures we have taken to ensure we can reopen safely are detailed in the School Reopening Plan which is available on the school website. A summary of some of the key measures are listed below:

- \* Staggered arrival and collection times
- \* One-way system in place at the rear of the school (Gorseysville entrance)
- \* Staggered break times and lunch times
- \* No assemblies or large gatherings
- \* Use of sanitising stations and additional cleaning schedules
- \* Limited movement around school
- \* Organisation of children into year group bubbles
- \* Restricted use of shared equipment and resources
- \* Restriction on visitors allowed into school
- \* Providing effective ventilation

## **Attendance**

Please note that from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, attendance is a compulsory requirement for all children. Any reasons for absence must be reported to the school office. However, you must not send your child into school if he, she, or a household member has symptoms of coronavirus. Please see below for guidance on this issue.

## **Coronavirus- What You Must Do**

If your child or a member of your household are suffering from Coronavirus symptoms, you must not send them to school. The main symptoms are:

- \* A high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back.
- \* A new continuous cough.
- \* Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

If your child or a member of your household has any of these symptoms, you must arrange to take a test. If the test result is negative, your child may return to school if they are well enough to do so. If, however, the test result is positive, your child or household member must self-isolate for at least 10 days. All household members of anyone who has had a positive test result must also self-isolate for ten days from the onset of symptoms. For further information, please refer to Government guidance or contact the school office.

If your child, or another person in their bubble tests positive for Coronavirus, we will, as we did in the Autumn term, require all children within the class bubble to self-isolate for ten days.

## **Work Provided for Children who are Self-Isolating**

School work will continue to be provided for all children who are self-isolating. In cases where whole bubbles are required to self-isolate, remote learning will be provided for all pupils through Google Classrooms.

## **Pupil wellbeing and support**

Understandably, some of the children will be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the coronavirus outbreak and in regards to an imminent return to school. I can assure you that we will be doing all we can to make sure children are supported through this with a series of lessons and activities aimed at meeting their mental health and well-being needs. As we did back in September, we will aim to support pupils with:

- \* the rebuilding of friendships and social engagement
- \* responding to issues linked to coronavirus (COVID-19)
- \* approaches for improving their physical and mental wellbeing
- \* more focused pastoral support where issues are identified that individual pupils may need help with, drawing on external support where necessary and possible.

## **Equipment**

For individual and very frequently used equipment, such as pencils and pens, children will have their own items that are not shared. These will be prepared in school ready for September. Children will be asked to limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day to essentials only including lunch boxes, hats, coats, books, stationery and mobile phones. School bags are allowed.

**Curriculum Recovery**

We are very impressed with the levels of engagement with our remote learning programme which children have demonstrated over the last few weeks, not to mention the dedicated, sustained and incredible effort made by all of you, the parents, to ensure children have remained on track with their learning. Our challenge now will be to identify any learning gaps which the children have so we can enable them to catch up as quickly as possible. We will assess the children in key areas shortly after their return to school in order to help us identify these gaps quickly and plan our catch up curriculum and intervention programme.

**School Uniform**

Children must return to school wearing uniform. Please note that children may wear their PE kit to school on their PE days, but this ought to include tracksuit bottoms and a warm top, due to increased ventilation which we currently have in place around the school.

**Lunch**

School lunches will be available from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, including hot dinner choices. Alternately, children may bring a packed lunch to school. Children will eat lunches in their classrooms in order to ensure that year group bubbles do not mix. The canteen will not be providing morning snacks- parents should continue to provide children with healthy snack options for them to eat at morning break.

**Extra-Curricular Clubs**

Please note that there will be no clubs during the week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We will write to you with more information about clubs in the near future.

**Charley's Childcare**

For parents who require wrap around care for their children, our new Before and After School Club will be opening imminently, and I will write to you with further information about this very soon.

If you have any further concerns or questions regarding the reopening of Brackenwood Junior School on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, please do not hesitate to contact me. We very much look forward to welcoming all the children back into school once again.

Very best wishes,

Conal Holmes  
Headteacher