



Bessemer Primary School

Part of the Bessemer and Keyworth Federation

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Executive Headteacher: Ms Sarah Beard

Head of School: Mrs Elizabeth Whitehead

28.8.20

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope you have had a restful summer and are looking forward to the return to school next week.

While those children who were able to return to school last term will be aware of many of the steps we have taken to reduce the risk of infection in school, these will be new to a lot of the children and we have had to make some further adaptations this term in order to accommodate the return of all children. Please could you talk to your children about the adjustments to our provision to ensure they know what to expect on Thursday.

Year Group Bubbles

In order to accommodate the return of all children and to provide a targeted catch up curriculum we have decided to operate in year group bubbles. This means that children will only mix with other children in the same year group as them. We have chosen year group bubbles rather than class bubbles so that we can continue to have smaller classes for English and maths, streamed phonics provision in EYs and KS1 and setting for maths in years 5 and 6 as we believe that this will enable the children to catch up on missed learning more quickly. The year group bubbles are also necessary for organising playtimes and lunches in such a large school. When children go out to play or to the hall for lunch they will only be with the children in their own year group.

Moving Around School

Movement around the school will be limited to reduce the risk of infection. There will not be any assemblies, each year group will have their own allocated toilets which are not shared with other year groups and walking lanes and social distancing markers have been marked on the floors in the corridors to help children move around safely. Bannisters and door handles will be cleaned regularly to facilitate safe movement around the school. Whenever children move around the school; on arrival in the morning, to go to lunch or out to play, they will wash their hands on arrival in class.

In the Classroom

The tables in the classrooms in Years 2-6 will be arranged in rows facing forwards rather than in groups. Each child will have a plastic wallet stapled to the side of their table containing their own pencil or pen, white board and marker and any other items they will use regularly. Other equipment will be shared but will be cleaned regularly with disinfectant

or steamers. Tables in the classrooms will be disinfected at points during the day and children will wash their hands regularly.

Lunches

Children in Early Years will eat hot meals in the hall every day. Children in Years 1-6 will eat hot meals in the hall and sandwiches (provided by school) in their classrooms on alternate days. This is to ensure that year group bubbles do not mix during lunch times.

Uniform and P.E.

Children should continue to wear school uniform as much as possible, although as children's school clothes should be washed daily to reduce the risk of infection, we understand that uniform might not always be possible. On days that they have P.E. children should wear their P.E. kit to school. Children should not bring P.E. kit into school in a bag as they will not be changing for P.E. Children will not be playing contact sports in P.E. and all equipment will be disinfected after use.

Bags and Books

Children should not bring any non-essential items in to school from home. Everyone should bring a labelled water bottle each day, a sun hat or rain coat depending on the weather, a packed lunch if desired and their reading book. Bags are permitted if children have a number of these items to carry but we ask that you wipe them clean each evening. When children return reading books to school they will place them in a box where they will remain for at least three days before being recirculated. Children should not bring P.E. kit, pencil cases, toys or other items from home.

Drop Off and Pick Up

In order to reduce congestion and facilitate social distancing we will be continuing to stagger drop off and pick up times. Please ensure that you drop off and pick up on time as it is important that your child uses the correct gate and does not mix with other year groups. Now that we will have twice as many children in school as we did last term it is particularly important that parents and carers drop off and pick up quickly and do not linger outside the gates. Please ensure that only one adult from each family comes to each drop off and pick up, and please line up outside the appropriate gate two metres apart from other families. Parents and carers are not allowed on site and must leave children at the gate. (There is an exception to this for Nursery and Reception children on their first day of school, but this has been communicated separately and is being carefully managed to ensure everyone's safety.) The times and gates for each drop off and pick up are below.

Year Group	Drop off time	Drop off gate	Pick up time	Pick up gate
Little Stars	Any time from 8.00	Blue gate	Any time up to 5.45	Blue gate
Nursery	9am (morning and full time children) 12.45 (afternoon)	Black EYs gate (morning and full time children at 9.00) Green EYs gate	12.00 (morning children) 3.45 (afternoon and full time children)	Green EYs gate (morning children at 12.00) Black EYs gate

	children)	(afternoon children at 12.45)		(afternoon and full time children at 3.45)
Reception	8.45	Black EYs gate	3.15	Black EYs gate
Year 1	9.00	Black KS1 gate	3.30	Red gate
Year 2	8.45	Black KS1 gate	3.15	Red gate
Year 3	9.00	Black 3/4 gate	3.30	Black 3/4 gate
Year 4	8.45	Black 3/4 gate	3.15	Black 3/4 gate
Year 5	9.00	Black 5/6 gate	3.30	Black 5/6 gate
Year 6	8.45	Black 5/6 gate	3.15	Black 5/6 gate

Bikes and Scooters

If you are able to take your child's bike or scooter home with you after drop off then we would very much appreciate this. However, if you are going on to work, or travel by bike yourself, bikes and scooters can be accommodated on site. Children in Nursery, Reception, Years 3,4,5 and 6 should use the bike and scooter parks in their own playgrounds, unless they are attending After School Club in which case they should park them inside the red gate. Children in Years 1 and 2 should also use the bike and scooter park inside the red gate before lining up at their own gate in the morning, as they will be leaving by the red gate in the afternoon. We will no longer be disinfecting bikes and scooters on arrival, please ask your child not to touch other people's bikes or scooters if possible.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is only available to those families who have already booked places and we ask that you only use it if you have no alternative as we need to keep the numbers as low as possible. Children arriving for breakfast club should enter through the red gate. Parents are not permitted on site and must leave children at the red gate. A member of staff will be at the door to ensure that children arrive safely and sanitise their hands. Once in breakfast club children will sit at a year group table and will not be able to move around the hall. Unfortunately children will not be able to play outside after eating breakfast, they can bring a book to read at their table or there will be drawing materials available.

After School Club

Bessemer Club is only available to those families who have already booked places. Children will remain in their separate year groups in allocated zones in the two halls and the playground. Parents collecting children from Bessemer club should press the buzzer at the red gate and wait outside the gate for their child to be sent out.

Communication

We will continue to keep you up to date with any developments or changes that we make to our provision. If you need to contact a member of school staff please either call or email the school office. Please do not come on to the school site to speak to staff or come to the office.

Children with Symptoms

If your child or any family member displays any symptoms of Covid 19 please do not send your child to school but follow the government guidance on testing and isolating. If your child displays symptoms in school they will be isolated immediately and you will be called to collect them.

If we have two cases of Covid 19 confirmed in a year group then that year group bubble will close for a two week isolation period, during which online learning will be provided on Google Classroom. While this may sound worrying, I can reassure you that during the partial opening last term we did not have any children or staff members diagnosed with Covid 19.

Further information about the steps we are taking to reduce the risk of infection in school can be found on our updated risk assessment which will be added to the school website by Monday.

While all of these changes may sound daunting, children who attended last term with these arrangements in place adapted very quickly and feedback was overwhelmingly positive, so please reassure your child that school is still going to be a fun place to be!

We look forward to seeing you all next week, please do let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Elizabeth Whitehead