



Bessemer Primary School

Part of the Bessemer and Keyworth Federation

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Executive Headteacher: Ms Sarah Beard

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Thursday 21st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by thanking you for your overwhelmingly positive response to our risk assessment and planned actions for school reopening, your understanding and support is very much appreciated.

Some questions around the reopening have been raised by parents so I am writing to answer them in the hopes that this is helpful to anyone who is still unsure about whether to their child back to school or not. The deadline for registering children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 was yesterday, but we have extended this to lunchtime today to ensure everyone has had the chance to respond. If you have confirmed your child's return you will receive a confirmation email over the next few days.

If you choose not to send your child back at this point but change your mind later this is fine, but you will need to inform us of your child's return by the Wednesday of the preceding week.

As of the week beginning June 1st, school is open for the year groups listed above, and will be delivering education rather than childcare as has been the case during school closure. As such we encourage all children who are returning to attend full time as usual. Children who do not attend every day may struggle with lessons, having missed previous learning. However, we do understand that there are a number of issues attached to this, particularly for children with siblings in other year groups, so we will understand if you do not find this possible.

Children of keyworkers who are in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 should continue to attend only on the days when they can not stay at home as school is still officially closed for those year groups. These children will continue to be taught the lessons that are posted on Google Classroom for their year group.

Teachers of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will no longer be able to share complete lessons on Google Classroom, but will post lesson outlines or PowerPoints and work for each lesson.

I explained in my last letter that there would be staggered drop off and pick up times for each year group and that families with siblings should drop off both children at the later time, so a family with children in Year 1 and Nursery should drop off both children at 9.15 which is the Nursery drop off time. The Year 1 gate will be reopened at this time and each child should enter by their own gate. I did not clarify that these families with siblings should then pick up both children at the earlier drop off time, so children in Nursery and Year 1 would be collected at 3.15, the Year 1 pick up time. Each child will be brought to their own gate. If you live very close by, or are dropping off and picking up in a car in which you can wait, you can drop off and pick up each child at their own class' time.

Children in Little Stars can be dropped off and picked up at any time due to the small numbers of children involved. Children in Year 6 can come to school and go home alone if desired.

We know that many children will travel to school by bike or scooter. If it is possible for you to take these away with you after drop off this would be much appreciated. If this is not possible they will be stored inside each year group's gate where they should not be touched by anyone else during the day, although we cannot guarantee this.

As we want school to feel as normal as possible in the ways that it can, given that so many things are changing, it would be nice if children could wear school uniform once we return. However it is advisable that children's clothes are washed each evening after school, so we fully understand that uniform may not be possible every day. Please remember that we do not want P.E. kits brought into school, so children should wear appropriate footwear for physical activity every day.

Every child returning to school should bring with them a labelled, refillable water bottle which they can keep on their table, or in a designated place in Early Years. Drinking water will be available in classrooms to refill bottles. Children should also wear sun cream and sunhats as we will be spending as much time outside as possible, although of course we will make sure that shade is available.

As I'm sure you understand, our main priority at this time is to protect our staff and children and their families. If you are sending your child back to school we ask that you continue to follow the government advice on lock down and that you follow all of the procedures that we set out. We will be sending out detailed information sheets about drop off and pick up procedures next week and will write to you again after the announcement on May 28th to confirm whether the reopening is going ahead.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. If you have any further questions please do email via the office or call school on any week day.

Yours sincerely,



Elizabeth Whitehead