



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

Friday 26th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all, a huge thank you to everyone for being so accommodating following our difficult decision to move to a four day week from next week. As always your understanding is very much appreciated and has made the situation much easier.

As we will be opening five new pods next week I would like to take this opportunity to provide a reminder of some key information based on our risk assessment and government guidance. Our updated risk assessment can be found on the school website if you would like any further detail. I would also like to share some updates for the year groups that are not able to return to school.

Year Two Pods

As we are opening four Year 2 pods it has not been possible to place every child with their class teacher. We have however ensured that children who are not with their own teacher are with a group of friends. We have contacted the parents of all children who are not in their own class individually, if you have not had a phone call your child will be with their usual class teacher.

Drop Off and Pick Up

The drop off and pick up times and locations for different year groups are as follows:

Year Group	Drop Off	Pick Up	Gate
Year 6	8.30	3.00	Yr 5/6 gate
KS2 Keyworkers	8.30	3.00	Yr 3/4 gate
Year 2	9.00	3.30	Yr 3/4 gate
Year 1	8.45	3.15	KS1 gate
Reception	9.00	3.30	Main red gate
Nursery	9.00	3.30	Black Nursery gate
Little Stars	From 8.30	By 4.30	Blue gate

Children in Year 2 who have already been attending the keyworker pod can continue to arrive at 8.30 if necessary, they should still use the Year 3/4 gate.

In order that we are able to manage the opening of the different gates at various times

please ensure that your child arrives promptly for school. With the current guidance in place, children who arrive late require the correct gate to be reopened for them, or need to be escorted to class which puts a strain on the available staffing.

As we now have an extra year group arriving we will be opening the Nursery, Reception and Year 2 gates five minutes early for drop off every day to try to reduce the queues. As this will mean that there are only 10 minutes between the drop off times for all of the Early Years and Key Stage 1 classes we would be very grateful if you could try to drop siblings off at their own gates at the correct times rather than bringing siblings later as was previously advised.

From Monday please could Reception parents queue on the other side of the red gate, along the fence towards Little Stars and Early Years to avoid mixing with the queue for Year 2. Please could parents of Year 2 children queue at the Year 3/4 gate towards Greendale and up Dylways.

Please remember to queue at the gates two metres apart. Social distancing guidelines are still in place and for the protection of all, particularly those who may have been shielding before now we ask that you continue to follow them.

As we will have 5 extra pods of children being dropped off and picked up it is essential that we try to reduce congestion outside school to allow for social distancing. Please ensure that only one adult from each family comes to drop off and pick up children and please move away from the school as soon as you have dropped off or picked up your children.

Bringing Items From Home

We need to reduce the items brought to school to a minimum in order to limit the risk of transmission.

If you are returning home after dropping your child at school we ask that you take their scooter or bike away with you. If you are going on to work or travelling by bike and are unable to take the bike or scooter it will be wiped over at the gate and must then be parked on site by your child.

Children can bring a packed lunch if required and must bring a labelled water bottle and sun hat. They can also bring in sun cream if required, although this must have been applied before school as well. If it is possible please provide labelled sun cream that can be left in school rather than taken home every day. Children can also bring in school reading books that they are ready to return. These are left in a box outside the classroom and are not recirculated for a week after their return. Children are not allowed to bring in any other items from home except agreed medication.

We had previously stated that children could not bring bags into school. While this is still preferable, in the case of children who are bringing several of the items listed above, a bag is necessary. In these cases please ensure that the bag is made of a wipeable material and is wiped clean at home after use.

School Uniform

As far as possible we would like children to wear school uniform; so many things have changed that it is nice to have some normality where we can! However, as the guidelines say you should wash your child's clothes daily after school we do understand that uniform may not always be possible.

We are spending lots of time doing P.E. and other outdoor activities so please make sure your child wears trainers or similar every day. P.E. kits are not required.

Year Groups Not Returning

We have contacted parents and carers of children in Years 3,4 and 5 to explain any changes to their Google Classroom provision as a result of the expanded reopening. Lessons will continue on Google Classroom for the next three weeks.

We know how hard it is for the children who are not able to return to school and want to allow them the opportunity to 'check in' and say goodbye to their teacher. We are currently working on plans to provide children in Years 3-5 with live online meetings with their teachers in the last few days of term. We will let you know as soon as we have finalized the details.

Our play therapist has put together a pack to help parents to support children's social and emotional wellbeing as we are aware this can be challenging at the moment. We will send this out early next week.

Requests For school Places

We have now reached full capacity in every pod except Year 2, where there are one or two places available in each pod. We understand that this will be very disappointing for anyone still planning to request a place, however we do not have the staff available to open any further pods. You are still welcome to add your child to a waiting list, although movement at this stage is unlikely.

We are very hopeful that changes in government guidance mean that all classes will be able to return to school as normal in September, we will of course keep you updated on this as soon as we know more.

Have a great weekend, and enjoy the sun while it lasts!

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Whitehead