

## Bulphan Church of England Academy

Fen Lane, Bulphan, Essex. RM14 3RL

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13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly, I hope that you are staying well and safe. Secondly, I apologise for the length of this letter but I feel that it is important to give you as much information as is necessary regarding the reopening of school for all pupils in September.

We have considered the Government guidelines throughout our school reopening planning process to ensure that our children can all return to school safely. I understand that some of you may have concerns around sending your child back to school but please rest assured that we will follow all of the guidelines set out by the Government. The safety of our pupils and staff is of paramount importance to us and we have planned for the reopening of our school with the well-being and safety of our children and staff at the forefront of our minds.

A link to the Government information page for parents and carers regarding schools reopening in the Autumn term can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

I ask you to carefully read and consider the following points which outline some important features of what school will look in September.

### **Will returning to school be compulsory?**

- The government have outlined that school attendance will again be mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year.
- Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means, that pupils who have been on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. See the [guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable](#) for the current advice.
- Some pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional will need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school in September.
- Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, the absence will not be penalised.

***'God's word is a lamp to guide our feet and a light for our path'  
Inspired by Psalm 119:105***

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### Will pick up and drop off times change?

We have staggered the pick-up and drop off times for all of our children so that as per the Government guidance groups do not have to mix.

Parents will be asked to drop off their children at the school gate and a member of staff will direct them to their classroom.

It is very important that you stick to the time slots allocated per class to ensure the safety of our children, staff and parents. If you have siblings in another class you can arrive at the earlier allotted time. Please remember to observe social distancing of 2m when dropping off and collecting children at the school gates.

	Drop off time	Pick up time
Lower School EYFS/Year 1	9.00am	2.45pm
Middle School Year 2 / Year 3 / Year 4	8.45am	3.00pm
Upper School Year 4 / Year 5 / Year 6	8.30am	3.15pm

### Will children mix with other classes?

The children will not mix with other classes during the school day. Their class will form a 'bubble' and they will not share break or lunch times with any other children. They will not take part in whole school worship or any other whole school activities. This also means that we will not be able to offer any after school clubs for the first half term.

### What should my child bring to school?

- We will limit resources that come in and out of the school building.
- Children should wear full school uniform.
- Children will be able to bring a lunchbox and water bottle.

Children should not bring in any items for 'show and tell'

- Children can bring in a book bag and reading record / book
- To save unnecessary changing of clothes on PE days children are to wear their PE kit to school. PE days will be shared with you by the end of the first 2 days of term. There will be no PE on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> September.

### Will social distancing still be in place?

- Children will be encouraged to maintain a safe distance as much as possible within their own bubbles but this will not be compulsory as per the Government guidelines.
- Staff, however, will continue to maintain social distancing of 2m with both the children and other members of school staff. We know this may be more difficult when working with younger children. In particular, they will avoid close face to face contact and minimise time spent within 1 metre of anyone.

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### **What will classrooms look like?**

- Classrooms will be set up with forward facing desks where possible and staff will avoid close face to face contact with children and minimise the time they spend within 1m of anyone. (EYFS children will continue to access continuous provision and stringent cleaning will be in place)
- Classroom based resources, such as books and games, can be used and shared within the bubble; these will be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces.
- All pupils will be given their own 'resource pack' containing pencil, rubber, ruler etc to be used throughout the day.
- Windows and doors will be open to improve ventilation.

### **Keeping pupils and staff safe**

- Frequently used equipment/furniture etc (e.g. door handles/dinner tables/desks) will be cleaned more regularly – at least 3 times a day if not more.
- Children will be reminded and supported to wash/sanitize their hands regularly throughout the day.
- Posters will be displayed round the school to remind children to wash their hands regularly.
- Children, as per guidance, would not be expected to wear masks or other PPE. Children may wear masks to travel to school if you wish them to however they will be asked to remove them and give them to yourselves or throw away in a bin (if unaccompanied) before entering the building.
- Staff may, as needed, wear PPE- e.g. when administering medication or first aid, when checking pupils for signs of ill health, but won't be wearing PPE normally throughout the day (as per the guidance).
- If any child or a member of staff shows symptoms of Covid-19 they will be sent home and self-isolation procedures would have to be followed by this individual.

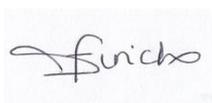
### **Will there be whole school events?**

- As per the current guidelines' children will stay in their 'bubble' meaning that whole school events will not take place until guidelines change.
- This means there will not be any worships until further notice or any other whole school events. Instead children will take part in class-based worships within their bubble.

We return to school on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**. Over the first few days of the new academic year the children will take part in a range of transition activities to support them in their return to school and help us to assess the needs of each child both emotionally and academically. The staff are all really looking forward to seeing all of the children back in September and supporting them in their return to school.

If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours faithfully,



Miss. S Finch  
Headteacher

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