

Beechwood Primary School

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Head Teacher: Miss S E Hunter

Executive Head Teacher: Mr C Cole



Friday 3rd September 2021

Back to School on Monday 6th September

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer break. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 6th September, and in accordance with the most up to date national Covid Government guidance and specific guidance to schools, I am delighted to say we will be reopening the school with a number of changes to last term.

Changes you will see from Monday 6th September

- All children should come into school via the main green school gate
- Parents are welcome onsite to take children to their classroom, if you wish to do so. Alternatively, you can leave your child at the gate (Year 1 upwards)
- Children will resume eating their lunch in the dining hall- rather than in classrooms
- Playtimes and lunchtimes will revert back to their normal time and arrangements
- Children will be able to cross bubbles
- Extra- curricular clubs will be starting back up again (week beginning 13th Sept)
- Key stage assemblies will be held in the hall
- The wearing of face coverings on site will be at your discretion, however, please be mindful that face coverings may still be required when speaking in close proximity to staff, or if you come into the school building
- Breakfast club and Handy club are back up and running – spaces are limited

Things we are keeping the same (for now)

- A 20 minute drop off (8.30-8.50am) and collection (3.10-3.30pm) window
- Children coming into school, in their PE kits, on the days of their PE lessons (except Foundation).
- Whole school assemblies held via Zoom
- Please continue to use email and phone calls to communicate with the school office as much as possible - however if you need to come into the lobby, we would ask that it is only one family at a time.

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It remains the case you/your child should self-isolate straight away and get a [PCR test \(a test that is sent to the lab\) on GOV.UK](#) as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:

- a high temperature*
- a new, continuous cough*
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste*

You should also self-isolate straight away if:

- you've tested positive for COVID-19 – this means you have the virus*
- someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive, unless you are not required to self-isolate – please see below)*
- you've been told to self-isolate following contact with someone who tested positive – [find out what to do if you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app](#)*

As you will be aware changes have been made to who has to self-isolate if they have come in contact with a positive case. The guidance states that, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS*
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old*
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial*
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons*

This will mean pupils at Beechwood will not need to routinely self-isolate if they come into contact with a positive case, however, the guidance for adults and children states that after coming into contact with a positive case, even if you do not have symptoms, you should still:

- get a [PCR test on GOV.UK](#) to check if you have COVID-19*
- follow advice on [how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19](#)*
- consider limiting contact with [people who are at higher risk from COVID-19](#)*

Therefore, we would ask that in order to keep your children as well as other children and staff as safe as we can, that before sending your child back into school, you follow the Government guidance and take your child for a PCR test.

We would also ask that even if your child test results are negative, particularly if the positive case is someone in your household, you continue to be very vigilant if any signs or symptoms develop, and would also encourage an increased use of lateral flow tests at home for the ten day period.

We have a new risk assessment which sets out all our changes but also includes continuing with many of the measures we have had in place for the duration of the pandemic such as good ventilation, regular and thorough hand washing, robust cleaning and the use of hand sanitiser.

In addition, schools are now required to have an Outbreak Management plan in place which would be implemented should we have an outbreak in school. (An outbreak is defined as whichever of the following threshold is reached; 5 children or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive within a 10 day period or 10% of children/staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive within a 10 day period has been met.)

As I am sure you can imagine, our outbreak management plan sees measures similar to those in place prior to the summer break re-implemented for a short period of time, e.g. bubbles, staggered breaks, in an attempt to control the outbreak.

As schools reopen across the country, I am sure we will be issued with further guidance and advice and practice may change, and if this happens we will of course keep you fully informed if this is the case.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S E Hunter'.

Miss S E Hunter
Headteacher