

# *Bodsham Church of England Primary School*

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Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Reopening Bodsham School to All Children in September**

I am very pleased to be writing to you with information about the reopening of our school to all children in September. As you know, the school closed to almost all children on 20<sup>th</sup> March this year and only reopened to limited year groups on 8<sup>th</sup> June. On **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** we will finally be able to welcome back our whole school community for the first time in more than six months.

We are able to do this because government guidance issued on 2<sup>nd</sup> July indicated that it is now safe to do so. The incidence of Covid-19 in the country has fallen to a low enough level to allow us to safely teach children in full class groups again – although there will be a continuing need for schools to operate a system of controls that minimise the risks of Covid-19 transmission.

This letter contains important information about the system of controls that you can expect to find in place at Bodsham Church of England Primary school and ways in which you as parents can help us to keep all children safe in the new term. We have completely revised the Risk Assessment created for the school in June to reflect this new guidance and new Behaviour and Child Protection Policies will be in operation – all of which can be found on our website.

## **When will the school be open?**

All children will be expected to return to school on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Our new Reception intake will start a week of half day sessions on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. The school will no longer need to close on Fridays and children's attendance will be recorded as normal. Our usual Attendance Policy will be applied from the start of the school year.

## **How will children be kept safe while at school?**

We will implement a system of controls across the school that ensure we comply with the latest government guidance. Full details of these controls are set out in our Risk Assessment. The main features are:

- Nobody with Coronavirus symptoms will attend school. Anyone developing symptoms during the school day will be sent home and asked to follow self-isolation and testing procedures.
- Any member of the school community with Coronavirus symptoms will be asked to arrange for a Covid-19 test. The school will engage fully in the national Test and Trace system.
- Children and adults will wash their hands frequently throughout the day. New hand washing facilities have been installed in the school to this end.

- Children will be taught in whole class groups (or 'small bubbles'). These groups will be kept separate from other groups for the great majority of the school day.
- Furniture will be arranged in classrooms to prevent children sitting opposite each other.
- Where there is a need for class groups to share a space (such as the hall or playground) they will do so in distinct groups of not more than two classes ('large bubbles'). Large bubbles will only be used when there is no alternative, to allow normal school operation.
- A regime of enhanced cleaning will be in place across the school. Tables and hard surfaces will be cleaned with antiviral products daily. An anti-viral 'fogging' machine will be used to clean shared spaces such as the ICT suite whenever a group has left the room.
- Contact between individuals will be minimised and social distancing promoted where possible. Children will arrive and leave the school in staggered groups to reduce the number of people on site at any one time.

### **How will we help children get used to school again?**

Most of our children will not have been in school since March. We are carefully planning a 'Recovery Curriculum' that builds on and values all the learning that has taken place at home during this time. At the start of the year children will be given learning objectives drawn from the previous year to develop their self-confidence. Teachers will carefully assess any gaps in knowledge that have arisen and 'Catch Up Time' will feature in every class each day.

We will remind the children of our Christian Values and use them to celebrate acts of love and kindness. Teachers will ensure there is a prayer space in every classroom to help the children reflect on their own feelings and speak to God if they wish.

There will also be a greater focus on Personal, Social and Health Education in the curriculum, helping children restore their relationships with each other and talk about their experiences during lockdown.

### **What will it be like when we arrive on the first day?**

In our parent survey, the majority of parents expressed a wish to see the school as normal as possible in September, but a significant proportion would be reassured by visible Covid-19 precautions. We have tried to strike a balance.

Those parents and children who have been onto our school site since 8th June will be familiar with the arrangements that will be in place in September. Please bring your children into school at the allotted time and walk down to the playground, under the tree. Mrs Fagg will be waiting at the top gate if you wish to drop your children directly from the car at that point. A member of staff will be on the playground to greet your child at the playground entrance, but will not be able to have long conversations with parents at this point. Please leave the school site as quickly as possible and avoid gathering outside the school gate.

If your child is reluctant to separate from you at this time, please leave the site with them and return via the school office when they feel ready. If you have any concerns or wish to pass on any information to your child's teacher, please telephone the school office to arrange a conversation. Our staff will be happy to telephone you at a convenient time. Mrs Stephen or myself will also be available if you need to speak to us.

We will stagger our start and end times for different classes to reduce the number of people arriving at once. Full details of timings can be found at the end of this letter.

From Year 1 upwards, desks will be arranged to avoid children sitting opposite each other. Children should find their classrooms less cluttered and roomier. Children will be asked to wash their hand frequently during the day and older children will be given hand sanitiser to use.

Reception children will have a free flow approach to learning indoors and out.

Children will not be expected to socially distance themselves from other children in their class. Adults will sensitively remind children if they are playing or behaving in an inappropriate way. The Butterflies and the Robins will form a 'large bubble' for lunch and playtimes, sharing the playground and field if weather allows. The Woodpeckers and The Owls will do the same. These 'large bubbles' will only operate outside and in the dining hall. It will be safe for the children to use the outdoor play equipment which will be on a rota system and cleaned more regularly.

At the end of the day parents should gather on the playground while remaining socially distant from each other. Collection times will also be staggered to reduce numbers. Children will be lined up and sent to their collecting adult as usual.

### **Will the children need school bags?**

Yes. I am delighted to say that we will be able to send home reading books again from the start of the term so a book bag (Butterflies, Robins, Woodpeckers and Y5 Owls) or a small backpack (Y6 Owls) will be needed. We will be supplying all children with their own set of stationery and a pencil case which will stay in class so there is no need to bring in any of these items from home. Lunchboxes and water bottles can go home every day for cleaning.

### **Will school dinners be available?**

Yes, a full menu of school meals will be available from the first day of term. Parents can make payments to Caterlink as usual using their online booking system. Children in years R, 1 and 2 will again be entitled to a free school meal. Children will eat in the dining hall in large bubble groups. Parents can choose to send in a packed lunch if preferred.

### **Will the Free School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme be running again?**

Yes, children in Years R, 1 and 2 will receive a daily piece of fruit or vegetable. Children in Key Stage 2 may bring fruit or vegetables as a snack for morning break times, but nothing in a wrapper please.

### **Will school uniform be worn?**

Yes, full school uniform should be worn from the first day. We have also decided that children should wear their PE kit to school on days when their class is having PE lessons to avoid the need for children to change. PE kit is a Bodsham white T-Shirt which can be worn under the usual Bodsham sweatshirt, with black or navy shorts or tracksuit bottoms. [All Bodsham PE kit can be ordered from our website](#). Children may wear trainers (not plimsolls) on these days but should continue to wear school shoes at all other times. Your child's teacher will write to you with details of PE days at the start of the term.

### **Will breakfast club be running?**

Yes. Mrs Wenham will be running the breakfast club as usual from 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Doors will open at 8am as usual. Appropriate social distancing will be observed in line with the large bubbles run by the school and enhanced hand hygiene expected. A place at Breakfast Club will cost £3 per day which should be deposited

in the black letterbox outside the hall door in a named envelope. Parents will be asked to leave the children at the door rather than come into the hall as previously.

### **Will there be after school sports clubs in September?**

Not at first. We hope to work with Elite Community Coaching and other providers to reinstate this offer during the first few weeks of the first term.

### **Will there be Collective Worship and Gold Book?**

I'm afraid not. We are not able to gather the whole school together for any form of assembly or collective worship and visitors to the school will be kept to a minimum. We will explore other ways to celebrate children's success in the classroom, and ensure we are able to worship together as a community.

### **Will there be the usual parental consultations?**

The way we communicate children's progress to you will need to change. We will not be able to invite parents in to our usual 'orientation' meetings at the start of term. Teachers will produce a class newsletter with welcome information instead. 'Drop in Zones' will also not be possible under the current restrictions. Parents' evenings will also have to change their format as it will not be safe to ask parents to attend the school in large numbers, even in the Autumn. We will develop a system of telephone or video consultations with your child's teachers.

### **What will happen if there is a resurgence of Coronavirus in the future?**

Our system of controls is designed to minimise the impact of a Covid-19 case on the wider school community. However, schools are being asked to prepare robust plans to allow them to quickly revert to home learning should the need arise. We are committed to ensure that any child unable to attend school receives high quality home learning opportunities as quickly as possible. Our school will work closely with local health protection teams at all times and will act on their advice and guidance.

### **What does the school require of us as parents?**

The support you have shown us since lockdown has made a real difference to the morale of our staff. As we move towards a more normal future we appreciate everything you can do to help us implement our system of controls. Parents will need to fully engage with the Test and Trace system. Parents must also agree to seek a Covid-19 test if any member of your household develops Coronavirus symptoms.

The Bodsham team have spent a great deal of time and effort to ensure that your children are welcomed back into a friendly and familiar school environment. We are all looking forward to being together again as a school community and I hope that, over time, many of the restrictions I have outlined in this letter can be eased.

Wishing you all a peaceful and happy summer.



Paul Newton

**Executive Head Teacher**



### **Information for parents.**

**Please arrive at school between:**

Reception, Year 1 & 2      8:30 – 8:40am

Year 3, 4, 5, 6              8:40 – 8:50am

**Please collect your child at:**

Butterflies (YR)              3:15pm

Robins (Y1&2)                3:20pm

Woodpeckers (Y3&4)        3:25pm

Owls(Y5&6)                    3:30pm

It is very important that parents adhere to these timings as much as possible.

If your child has siblings who are required to arrive/leave at different times, you need only come onto the site once. Please arrive at the earliest time and leave at the later time.