

Bodsham Church of England Primary School

Mr P. Newton
Executive Head Teacher

Tel/Fax: 01233 750374
Website: www.bodsham.kent.sch.uk



School Hill
Bodsham
Ashford
Kent

TN25 5JQ

23rd February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will have heard the Prime Minister's announcement that all children will be able to return to school on Monday 8th March. This excellent news will mean the end of a period of 8 weeks of home learning for most children.

We are excited at the prospect of having all the children back with us again and I anticipate a quick return to the routines we successfully established between September and Christmas last year.

The national 'roadmap' out of lockdown set out by the Prime Minister calls for a gradual easing of restrictions, with time to assess the impact of each measure along the way. This means it will be many months before we have anything like the normality we enjoyed before the pandemic, but the direction of travel is clear and there is now a real prospect that the last term of this year will be almost completely restriction free.

Who will need to return to school?

All children will be expected to return to school on Monday 8th March. Home Learning will cease at this point. Please contact us straight away if there is a reason why your child cannot return to school on that date, such as a recent positive Covid19 test result in the household. Normal absence reporting for routine sickness and medical issues will resume.

The latest DfE guidance says children who live in a household where someone is clinically vulnerable or shielding are also safe to return to school.

What measures will be in place to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid19?

We will be returning to our tried and tested 'system of controls' that have helped to keep cases in school to a very low level to date. These controls mean that:

- All parents must agree to engage with the NHS Test and Trace protocols, which include entering self-isolation when Covid19 symptoms are noticed and not sending any member of the family into school until PCR test results have been obtained.

- Any individual who has come into close contact with a confirmed Covid19 case will be sent home and asked to enter a period of self-isolation in accordance with PHE guidance.
- Staggered start and end times to the school day will be re-established to help reduce the number of adults on site at any one time. Please check your allocated time slots at the end of this letter carefully.
- Children should wear full school uniform including shoes not trainers. PE kits should be worn to school on days when PE is being taught. All PE will be outdoors for the foreseeable future.
- Children will remain in distinct groups or bubbles throughout the day. This will include play and lunchtimes.
- Regular hand washing will take place throughout the day and respiratory hygiene will be emphasised to the children constantly.
- Classrooms and other spaces in school will continue to be well ventilated and subject to enhanced cleaning each day.
- Staff members will continue to undertake two Lateral Flow Tests each week and report the results to the school. Children will not be required to take a test unless they develop Covid19 symptoms.
- Face coverings will be worn by staff in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible. Teachers will not be required to wear face coverings while teaching their class.
- Children will continue to be provided with their own set of stationery such as pencils, pens and erasers. They should not bring pencil cases or other items in from home.
- Lunchboxes and water bottles can be brought in daily, but should be cleaned carefully as soon as they arrive back at home each day.

Children will not be required to wear masks and need not bring them into school. If you prefer your child to wear a mask on the way to school then please make sure you collect it from them before they enter the building.

How will the school help children catch up missed learning?

This will be a national priority for the future. At first we will aim to make sure all children feel confident and happy to be back in school. We will adjust the curriculum to focus on the 'core' learning in English and maths necessary to help children progress to their next year group in September. We will provide more opportunities for children to experience activities that promote communication, collaboration, cooperation and team building. We believe that helping children regain these vital social skills is our priority as this will lay the foundations for learning in the future. There will be a renewed emphasis on making reading enjoyable!

What's for lunch?

Caterlink will be offering a full hot meal service from 8th March, which should be paid for in advance using Caterlink's online payment system. If your child prefers a home packed lunch then please ensure all lunchboxes are thoroughly washed when they return home each day. All children in Years R, 1 and 2 will continue to be entitled to a free meal as part of the national Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme.

Will there be wraparound care?

Yes. From Monday 8th March the Breakfast and After School clubs will be fully open to all children. Full charges will apply and bookings should be made with 48 hours' notice for both services by contacting admin@bodsham.kent.sch.uk

Will there be after school clubs?

Hopefully. The new guidance indicates schools are able to offer outdoor sports activities after school and we are working with Elite Community Coaching to re-establish these clubs. It will be important to maintain children in distinct groups so the aim is to offer at least one after school activity to all KS1 and KS2 bubbles each week. There will be a charge for these clubs and parents will need to book as usual via the Elite website.

Well done!

I am full of admiration and gratitude for all the work you have done to keep your children learning at home. I'm sure that your efforts will help the children feel more confident about their return to school as they have all shared a common learning experience over the last few weeks.

I have said before that parents should not feel overly concerned about the idea of children 'falling behind' in their learning as a result of missed schooling. As a country we are all in new and uncharted waters when it comes to what we expect of our children going forward. There are real opportunities now to provide them with a curriculum that concentrates not only academic needs, but social and emotional learning as well. Our staff are looking forward to starting this important chapter in our children's development, in partnership with yourselves as parents.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!



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) & 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 to avoid having to wait on the playground.

Please send your children into school wearing their PE kit on days when it is being taught.