

# Bunwell Primary School

## Road to Reopening post COVID-19



This document has been put together following guidance shared with the government from July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020.

It aims to cover everything you need to know about children returning to school in September.

There is a lot of information included in this document, please take time to read it and understand our plans. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

- **Which children are coming back?**

In September, all children will return to school. It is vital for children's education and wellbeing that they return. The first day of term is Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

- **What if I'm not comfortable sending my child back to school?**

We understand that some families might be anxious about their children returning due to individual circumstances and we will work with you to support your children coming back to school. There may be some exceptional cases where children are unable to return due to health needs in their household. If you think this applies to you, please get in touch **before September**.

- **How will we minimise the risks in school?**

The prevalence of COVID-19 has reduced greatly since schools closed in March, but there are still measures we can put in place to further reduce the risk of transmission.

We will continue to take the following measures set out in the government guidance:

- Avoiding contact with anyone who has symptoms – **no one with symptoms should attend school for any reason**
- Frequent hand washing and good hygiene practices (Catch it, bin it, kill it)
- Regular cleaning of settings
- Minimising contact and mixing between groups.

- **How will groups be organised?**

Minimising contact and mixing between people reduces the risk of transmission. We will achieve this by keeping groups of children and staff separate (in bubbles). For older children, this will also involve social distancing.

We plan to have class bubbles with some key stage bubbles (Ladybirds/Hedgehogs and Badgers/Foxes bubble) for lunchtime and playtimes. Staff and children will stick to their group and contact between the groups will be minimal. The groups will have staggered playtimes and lunchtimes.

- **How will we start and end the day?**

As children come into and leave school it will be important to try and avoid all unnecessary group gatherings, so please leave as soon as you have dropped your child at school, it is imperative that people do not gather in groups. Unless it is absolutely unavoidable, only one adult per household should bring children to and from school. From September, children will come into and leave the building differently. The gates will still open at 8:40, but remain open until just before 9am to reduce the number of people gathering.

- Nursery and Reception children will continue to enter through the gate they usually do, but we ask that parents do not enter the classroom. Parents will then leave through the bottom gate; it will be sign posted!
- Y1/2 children will enter via the main office entrance having been met by an adult from their class. We ask that parents do not stay to see their children in to avoid having too many people in close quarters.
- Y3/4/5/6 children will enter through the main gate on the playground. We ask that parents do not stay to see their children in to avoid having too many people in close quarters.
- Children will leave their classrooms the same way.
- If children cycle or scoot to school, please practise social distancing when putting their bikes/scooters in the rack.
- Please do your best to be on time for school so that children do not have to come through the office.
- All children will be asked to wash their hands on arrival.
- At the end of the day, Early Years and Y1/2 will come out at 3:05pm to reduce the number of people waiting at the end of the day. Families with siblings in KS2 can then wait for them to come out at 3:15pm.
- We may need to review the beginning and the end of the day if our plans mean there are too many people around at the same time, but we will share this in good time should we need to.

- **What will the children be taught?**

In returning to school, we know that some children will have not been to school for nearly six months. Staff are aware of the social and emotional strain lockdown has had on children as well as the academic impact. We will ease children back into school life, while continuing to deliver high quality lessons across the curriculum. There will be a strong focus on basic skills in maths, reading and writing. If there are any children who are unable to return to school for medical reasons, provision will be made to ensure that they continue with home learning.

- **Will the option of a phased return to school be available?**

We recognise that coming back to school every day will be tiring for everyone. If you think your child needs more support in returning to school, please talk to me or their class teacher.

- **How will break time and lunchtimes be managed?**

In order to try and keep the groups as separate as possible, we will stagger break and lunchtimes. We hope that the autumn term brings us fine weather, so that we can enjoy the outside space Bunwell has.

- **Will we be able to order school dinners as usual?**

School dinners will be available; you can order in the usual way using Wisepay. Please remember to order before 10pm on a Sunday evening.

- **What will my child need to bring to school?**

Children should wear their usual uniform to school, full details can be found on the website. Children will need to bring the usual things to school with them such as a book bag and PE kit. It will be useful if children leave their PE kits in school all week as we will do PE on different days. **ALL** children will need to bring wellies as we will be using the field daily, unless there is heavy rain. Children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 and Year 2 will need to bring their slippers (or shoes which can be worn indoors) back to school with them. They will also need a bag of clothes suitable for Forest Schools. **ALL** children will need to bring a water bottle with them to school as the water fountain will not be in use.

- **Is it ok for my child to go to wraparound care before and after school?**

The government guidance says that children should only attend wrap around care where it is possible to keep the same bubbles as during the school day. In order to reduce the risk posed to our families and staff, we plan to offer before and after school club provision temporarily in order to support the community in getting back to work. Please complete the questionnaire to register your interest <https://forms.gle/ZBU7FQ7PaY1Hg4TH7>

- **How can I get a message to school?**

So that we can try to limit the amount of people we come into contact with, if you have a message you need to get to school, please either telephone, email or use Dojo. Please **do not** come to the school office unless you have a safeguarding concern or you have come to pick your child up due to illness.

- **What will happen if my child develops symptoms at school?**

If your child develops symptoms, however mild, we will contact you and ask you to pick your child up from school without delay. They should then isolate for seven days, with everyone else in their household isolating for fourteen days. All children who are attending an education setting are able to access a test. If they test negative, they can return to school. If the test is positive, the rest of the class or group should be sent home and are advised to self-isolate for fourteen days.

- **What happens if there is a confirmed outbreak?**

If there is a confirmed case at school, we will follow advice from Public Health England. We will establish who has had close contact with the person who has tested positive, and ask them to self-isolate for 14 days. If there is a confirmed outbreak in the local area and we are required to close again, we will revert to home learning until we are advised that it is safe to open again. In this scenario, we would remain open for children of key workers.

- **Will my child need to wear PPE?**

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools is not recommended.

- **Will staff have to wear PPE?**

No, the majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work (for example to deal with first aid incidents), even if they are not always able to maintain a distance from others.

- **What will a typical school day look like?**

All four groups/bubbles are to remain separate from each other and we will minimise mixing during the school day. They are to remain in their 'bubble' as much as they possibly can do, this is especially important with the younger children as it has already been acknowledged will find social distancing very difficult.

The intention within each 'bubble' is that the school experience will be as normal as possible with the exceptions of increased hand washing, limited use of some resources for hygienic reasons and lack of contact with others within the school. This approach will comply with the DfE guidance around social distancing within schools.

The school day will unavoidably feel different and look different but staff will endeavour to continue to make Bunwell Primary School a warm and welcoming place to learn and have fun.

The government guidance around returning to school can be accessed 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>