



Bernards Heath Infant and Nursery School

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Head: Mrs H. Rimmer

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March 2021 – Full Return to School

Dear Parents and Carers,

It feels quite surreal to have typed March at the top of this letter, knowing it was exactly this time last year when this all began. As a community, we have endured more than I am able to comprehend. The road to recovery is a long one, but Monday 8th March is now only 10 sleeps (!) away and bringing the children back together will certainly give us a boost we all so desperately need.

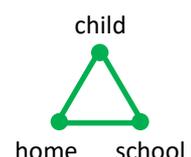
I need to pause to say thank you to you all for your enduring support. Mrs Rimmer re-joins our red-coated team on Monday and with her she brings a little more light to the end of our tunnel, for all of us at Bernards Heath. As she learns about life at school, you can expect to continue to hear from me with all Covid related news/updates/reminders – Mrs Rimmer's first question last week was, "What's Seesaw?" We've got plenty of exciting things lined up for her to learn about...wait until she sees our very slick conveyor belt drop-off of over 300 children every morning - feel free to point her in the right direction!

There isn't a pedestal high enough for me to put our Bernards Heath team up on to. Life in a school is always high pressured, it moves at an incredibly fast pace and it comes with a significant level of responsibility. What has happened this past year has challenged us beyond comprehension and at every stage, our success must be attributed to our steadfast, resilient, and entirely dedicated staff team who never expected to become 'Critical Workers' overnight. Thank you once again to our magnificent team. We are all counting down the days to classrooms filled with children.

Before we get into the detail and logistics, I encourage you to hold on to these 5 statements as we move into this next phase.

5 Reasons to Feel Reassured

- 1. We are returning to what we know** Schools are places of routine and structure - even if these routines have had to change, the predictability of the school day will be hugely reassuring for many.
- 2. Teachers are trained to respond to what's in front of them** There is no such thing as 'normal' when it comes to learning. All learners are individual and teachers respond to where the young person is, not where anyone says they should be.
- 3. 'Learning' (in this context) is a verb, not a noun** This means that we can't lose learning like it's a tangible thing. Some learning just hasn't taken place yet. Young people will take the lead from us, so if we don't talk of 'catching up', they won't feel they need to.



4. It's back to school, not back to learning As adults, we can look back and see that school was one place where we learned, but not the only place. Some children will have learned huge amounts during this time, just in unexpected ways.

5. We don't know what we don't know We can only speculate what the impact of the pandemic will be on young people. Yes, unfortunately for some it will have taken a great toll, but for others they will have built their character in ways we didn't know possible

Dragonfly: Impact Education

Below outlines in full detail the information you need, ready for our full return to school. Our plans are almost identical to those we followed throughout the autumn term but please read this whole document carefully to ensure you know exactly what you need to do.

Timings – including changes

Heath	arrive at 8:40am for the start of the morning (collected at 11:40am /1pm / 3:15pm) arrive at 12:15pm for the start of the afternoon (collected at 3:15pm)
FS2	arrive between 8:40 – 8:55am (collected 3pm)
Year 1	Mitchell and Spencer - queue at the front of school until 8:50am (collected 3:10pm) Churchill – enter via Upper Culver Road at 8:50am – the gate will be locked at 9am – <i>please note this is 5 minutes earlier than last term</i> (collected 3:10pm)
Year 2	enter via Upper Culver Road at 8:50am – the gate will be locked at 9am – <i>please note this is 5 minutes earlier than last term</i> (collected 3pm)

Please note the change of time – from Monday 8th March, any children arriving after 9am (previously 9:05am) will be recorded as late. We monitored arrivals for a whole term and almost every family consistently manages the above schedule and is onsite by 8:55am. We have adjusted the timings to ensure the schedule is efficient and the school day begins promptly.

Every class operate within their own bubble. This means they have a designated outdoor space and resources that are not shared. There are no staff who, on a regular basis, work with any other classes than their own. Staff cover, due to absence (including the use of supply teachers), continues to be permitted. With Mrs Aide and Miss Sinnott, we will be revisiting the wrap-around care bubbles and will update you next week.

Social Distancing – The adults in each bubble, and those working elsewhere around school, will adhere to stringent social distancing measures. As will you, whenever you are on site to drop off/collect. However, the Department for Education (DfE) has been clear that we cannot expect our children to socially distance within their bubble.

Playing with friends – the children will be back to spending 6 hours a day with their friends at school. Play-dates and gatherings are not permitted. We are still operating within a national lockdown. Children must be collected by a member of their own household, a member of their childcare bubble e.g. a grandparent, or their regular childminder/nanny/au-pair, only.

Government has been clear that young children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart, and in deciding to bring children back into school government has recognised this.

The **essential measures** we continue to take:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practical

ALL adults (excluding those exempt) must wear an appropriate face covering on our school site.

Explaining these measures to young children – We will again send our slideshow - ‘Keeping Safe’ – home to every family to give children a reminder before 8th March. Adults at school will talk with the children about this every day. It covers everything from our school rules, handwashing routines and what an adult will look like when they are wearing PPE.

Risk Assessment – We continue to update our Risk Assessment in light of all new changes. Following our very successful visit from NHS Deep Cleaning and Advisory service (February 2021) we are assured that all necessary measures are in place - *A very well maintained school run very well and maintained to an exceptional standard throughout. Very well planned out classrooms and all COVID-19 secure. The protocols here are excellent and the staff appears to have thought of everything in making the appropriate changes that are required through the outbreak(s).*

Everything else is outlined below.

Medical Needs and COVID-19	
Care Plans	<p>If your child already has a care plan for their medical needs, Mrs Mayhew and Mrs Morehen now hold responsibility for this. It is your responsibility to share all underlying health needs your child has.</p> <p>If you receive any updated medical advice from your child’s health professionals re: Covid-19, this must be shared with us before returning to school.</p> <p>It is also your responsibility to ensure your child has all relevant medication with them on the first day of school. If you arrive to school without this (for example, piriton/an inhaler/an epi-pen) you will need to take your child home with you to collect it. We cannot have your child at school without all of the medication they need.</p>
Emergency Contacts	<p>You must ensure your child has parents/carers or emergency contacts who are available, by telephone, throughout every school day. If we cannot get through to a child’s parent or carer, we will call your emergency contacts. Please ensure that these contacts are people who can get to school immediately and are not family members based in another part of the country.</p>
Clinically Extremely Vulnerable	<p>Any child classified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable must be known to us. If your child’s medical status has changed, contact the school office.</p>
Poorly	<p>At this time you must not send your child to school if they are unwell.</p> <p><i>Children who are unwell may - have been given paracetamol (calpol) to get them through the day, have a sore throat, are tearful, lacking energy, sleeping in the day, are feeling sick or are off their food/not eating. They may have a heavy cold e.g. experiencing a headache, and/or sinus pain, with a streaming nose - something that they can't manage themselves (likely to be dependent on age) and/or have a cough. These children are unwell and must stay at home.</i></p> <p><i>Children are well if they are behaving as normal, are energetic, are eating and sleeping normally, but may have a runny nose or a mild cold. They have not needed paracetamol and/or any other</i></p>

	<i>medication. They can manage their runny nose with appropriate hygiene measures. These children are well enough to come to school.</i>
COVID-19 Symptoms	<p>Anyone who becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough, a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must stay at (or be sent) home and follow 'Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'. To book a test – click here.</p> <p>If we are sending home a child who has become unwell with any of the above symptoms, we will also be sending home their siblings too.</p> <p>If your child did become poorly with Covid-19 symptoms whilst on the school site, they would be isolated and you would be called to collect them immediately.</p>
Testing for COVID-19	In order to operate a full opening, staff and families must engage with NHS Test and Trace .
PPE	<p>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn by staff who are dealing with a possible case of CV (or anyone displaying symptoms), cleaning an area where anyone with symptoms has been or for any intimate care. Intimate care is defined as nappy changing or changing a child who has had an accident and therefore there is risk of coming into contact with bodily fluids. If a child has had an accident but manages this themselves (this will depend on their level of independence) and simply needs clean/dry clothes passed to them and some moral support, this is not classified as intimate care.</p> <p>Staff may choose to wear face coverings in the classroom. This is personal choice and will be fully supported by the school at this time.</p>
First Aid	Usual PPE will be worn for basic first aid (adults wear gloves when cleaning cuts and grazes). To avoid the need for the Medical Room, each class has their own First Aid Kit.
Your child's day	
Attendance	<p>From Monday 8th March, school attendance is mandatory. Please see our Attendance Policy. Any request for leave of absence should be made via the school office and will be discussed with the Head teacher. Here is an extract from our policy with is shared with Bernards Heath Junior School - <i>Head Teachers will not grant any leave during term time unless there are exceptional and unavoidable circumstances. There are 13 weeks of school holidays during the year. The schools expect parents to take holidays during these periods. Term time is not the appropriate time to take a family holiday. This reflects both national and county policy.</i></p> <p>If a child exceeds the number of unauthorised absences, as outlined in our policy, the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, is included in our policy. Please read this carefully.</p>
Deploying support staff / outside agencies	<p>Specialists, therapists, clinicians and other support staff for pupils with SEND should provide interventions as usual. School are led by the outside agencies approach to working in schools at this time and will learn more about this from 8th March onwards.</p> <p>They, as well as supply teachers, peripatetic teachers or other temporary staff, can move between settings. They should ensure they minimise contact and maintain as much distance as possible from other staff. Such specialists will be aware of the PPE most appropriate for their role.</p> <p>All visitors will comply with our school protocol and those leading interventions will take the necessary steps to minimise contact wherever possible – this may mean that an adult leading an intervention with your child could be wearing a face shield or be working at a distance.</p>

Supply Teachers	Schools can engage supply teachers during this period.
Lunch	<p>Children in FS2 – Y2 do not need to pay for school lunch – every Infant aged child is entitled to a free school lunch.</p> <p>Children will continue to have their lunches delivered to their classrooms (the hall/dining room will not be used).</p> <p>If you would like to send in a home packed lunch instead, please ensure you adhere to our Home Prepared Packed Lunch Policy. In order to support those with allergies, packed lunches must not contain nuts.</p>
Outdoor play	Each bubble has their own designated outside space for use throughout the day. Lunch time play will be supported by class Midday Supervisory Assistants (MSAs).
Snack and milk	The daily fruit/veg deliveries, provided by the Government, are up and running as usual. We are not yet ordering milk but will have this back in place for the summer term.
Water-bottle	Your child must have their own water bottle every day. This must be CLEARLY marked with their name.
Uniform	Full school uniform (from page 12 in the linked document) is expected, every day of the week.
Washing Uniform	There have been reports of washing uniform daily at 60 degrees – this is not necessary. There is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day in a school.
Book-bag	We have been asked to limit resources coming to and from school (show and tell items included) however, children should bring their book-bag, water bottle and their coat/sunhat.
Reading Books	Each class will have a selection of reading books which will begin to come home. These will be shared by others in their class or within their bubble. When books between classes are rotated, there will be a period of 48 hours where they must be quarantined.
Coming to and from school	
One adult	We have been advised that only one adult must arrive to drop off or collect their child. This avoids unnecessary congestion.
On foot	Guidance strongly recommends walking to and from school wherever possible.
One-way	We adhere to a strict one-way system. Staff will be there to guide you.
Being on time	Please ensure you arrive promptly at your child's start time. The process of managing multiple start times means we need to combine our efforts to ensure we can keep everybody safe. <i>Arriving late is disruptive to your child, their class and our staff.</i> If you arrive later than 9:00am, please report to the office.
Play Equipment	Please ensure your child, and their younger siblings, are holding your hand throughout the time spent on the school site. In order to protect our bubbles, no outside equipment can be touched/played with/climbed on.
Gathering	<p>Arriving and departing school should feel like you're on a conveyor belt. In order to keep everybody safe, the line must keep moving. Groups cannot gather on the playground or outside the school gates. If the system for collecting your class involves lining up, please respect social distancing measures at all times.</p> <p>Please wait until you are outside of the school gates before sharing out after school snacks.</p>
Other	
Wrap-around care	Our wrap-around care can be booked via your SchoolGateway app. The provision for children will be altered under the current circumstances but will operate just as it did throughout the autumn term – more information on bubbles to follow.

Visitors	School remains closed to all visitors. This includes all volunteers. We will update you on this as soon as we are able to.
Office	The school office remains closed. To protect our staff, all communication continues to be via phone call or email.
After School Activity Clubs	We will not be offering after-school activity clubs until further notice.

I am sure you can understand that every single measure we have put in place, is there for the protection of our staff and your children and families. We look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

With sincere thanks,

Miss Woolfson
Acting Head teacher