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Dear Parents,

Well, we are almost here at the end of the strangest year in teaching that I have ever experienced. A very well done to you all, who have had to manage juggling family life and possibly work, alongside home-schooling. It has been a real lift to us all in school to see the lengths that you have gone to with some of your activities.

As you will have heard in the news recently, the plan is for schools to open fully to all pupils in September. I have been working with the governors and staff to put plans in place to make sure that the school is as safe as it can possibly be for all children to return. The adaptations that we made for the 1st June wider opening have worked well - the children and parents have adapted really quickly. I feel that it is important to outline our plans for how the children will return in September before the summer although please be aware, this is with the caveat that it is subject to change if the government or local authority guidance changes over the summer break. The risk assessment that has been written will become available on the school website once it has been approved by the governors.

The government have accepted that in order for all children to return to school, social distancing cannot necessarily be adhered to. Whilst this is the case for children, staff working in the school are expected to maintain social distancing rules from each other and the children where possible. Each class will become its own 'bubble' they have to remain in their bubbles and should not mix with other classes. Therefore, whole school events e.g. assemblies and interventions for children across different classes will not be able to take place. In the past whilst the teachers have always remained with their class, the teaching assistants have often moved around between classes. Although the government guidance suggests that this is permitted, I have arranged for the teaching assistants to remain with one class. This will mean that each class is supported by at least one teaching assistant every morning for the whole morning.

The children will be taught in their usual classroom. Classrooms for the older children will be adapted to reduce the amount of furniture, ensuring that all children's tables are front facing. The children will be expected to share a table with another child, and they will remain in the same place each day.

Equipment

The children will be given their own pack of equipment in either a pencil case or zipped bag. Please limit the items brought in from home to the bare minimum e.g. packed lunches, a drinks bottle and their reading books.

This may come to school in a small bag. Drinks bottles will be kept on their own desk. Reading books will be allowed to go home every evening and returned the following day. If a child needs to replace their reading book, the books will be placed into a separate tray and not touched for 72 hours before being allowed to be redistributed.

PE

On days that the children have PE, we would like the children to wear their PE kit for the day (plain white t-shirt and black shorts). On colder days they would need to wear black jogging bottoms or leggings.

Hygiene

Children will be expected to enter the school building and wash their hands immediately, as well as regularly throughout the day. Hand sanitiser will also be available at exit points from the classrooms. Areas of the school building will be cleaned throughout the day.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club will be available for the children from 7:45am, but this will be for supervision purposes only – food will not be served initially. In order to limit the number of children mixing, Years 1&2 will be based in the Hall, Year 3&4 will be based in the dining room area and Years 5&6 will be based in their own classroom. Years 1 - 4 will need to use doors via the infant playground as usual. If the weather permits, they will be encouraged to be outside.

After-school & Lunchtime Clubs

Children and teachers should not be mixing across bubbles, therefore there will be no after-school or lunchtime clubs in the first term. For those that require childcare after school, you will need to make direct contact with the Greenfield Centre to see what they have arranged.

Parents

Parents are not to enter the school building without an appointment and must adhere to social distancing measures at all times in the vicinity and whilst onsite. In the interests of our neighbours, please do not wait in Linden Close. If you need to communicate with teachers or office staff, this should be via telephone or email. Please note that all teachers will be in school working with children and so will not be available to respond during the school day. Staff in the 'bubble' will greet children at the entrance to their classroom and send them to immediately wash their hands. You must remain 1 metre+ apart on the school playground and your children **must** remain with you, they **must not** run off to other areas of the school to play. On collection, parents and children must leave the site immediately. **No cars** should be driven onto the school site - this is for staff only. We encourage you to walk to school where possible.

Drop-off and collection

8:40/3:00 – Children's surnames A-H

8:50/3:10 – Children's surnames I-M

9:00/3:20 – Children's surnames N-Z

Breaktime snack

Juniors

We will continue to provide toast for the children though this will be limited to one piece. Due to the increase in costs last year, the kitchens will no longer be organising toast. We are arranging for this to be done within school and will cost 10p per slice. So that we are limiting our dealings with cash and change, if your child would like toast, please bring in 50p at the beginning of the week. Some children may prefer to bring in a piece of fruit.

Infants

The free fruit and vegetable government scheme has been suspended since the beginning of the Covid crisis and we are unsure when it will be back up and running again. Can we ask that the infants bring their own piece of fruit to school for breaktime? Milk continues to be free for under 5s. For those that wish to continue to order milk or Orange Juice this will resume in September as normal.

Covid Symptoms

We would ask that you take your children's temperature before coming to school each day. If your child shows any of the Covid-19 symptoms i.e. high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of taste/smell, they must stay at home and you need to arrange for them to be tested. You must notify school immediately of the result of the test.

If your child becomes unwell in school with these symptoms, we will move them to a separate room in the school and supervise them. You must make arrangements for them to be collected immediately and book an appointment for them to be tested. Therefore it is imperative that we have your most up-to-date contact details. We understand that children often get high temperatures and it doesn't necessarily mean that they have Covid-19. However, we are legally obliged to treat it as if they do and follow the necessary procedures in order to protect everyone. Whilst this may be disruptive and inconvenient, it is not something that we are going to compromise. We do have a digital non-contact thermometer in school to be able to check children's temperature.

If there are any confirmed cases, a 'bubble' will be closed and all children and staff, through the NHS contact tracing process, will be told to self-isolate for 14 days.

Frequently asked questions

Do I have to send my child to school?

Yes, the government have said that it is compulsory to send your child back to school. We understand that you may be feeling anxious about your child's return to school particularly if you have not had much contact with others, but please be reassured that we are making it as safe as possible.

Do I need to wear uniform?

Yes.

What happens at lunchtime?

Children can bring in a packed lunch or order a school meal online in the usual way. The children will remain in their classrooms to eat and stay in their bubbles throughout all breaktimes/playtimes. Breaktimes and lunchtimes will be staggered and the playground areas will be divided up so that the children's bubbles do not mix.

What if someone in the 'bubble' shows symptoms of Covid-19?

If a child (or staff member) becomes ill, they will be taken to a separate room and kept in isolation. They will remain under adult supervision who will be in full PPE. If they need to use the toilet they will use a designated toilet. Both rooms will need to be deep-cleaned before they are able to be re-used. If your child is showing symptoms then you must arrange a test for them and notify the school of the result immediately as well as engaging with the NHS test and trace process. Negative results means that the child can return to school once they are feeling well, provided no other household member is awaiting test results or displaying symptoms.

If a case is confirmed as positive, all children and staff in that bubble will be sent home and told to self-isolate for 14 days.

What will the children do during the day?

We are prioritising the mental health and wellbeing of our pupils and plan activities accordingly using our PSHE Jigsaw scheme. We will be following the 'Recovery model' suggested by the local authority as well as ensuring a broad curriculum to include a focus on English and Maths. We will spend as much time learning outside as the weather allows.

Will they do PE?

The children will have active sessions each day, including the daily mile that we started earlier in the year. The children will come to school dressed in their PE kit and remain in this for the whole day.

What if my child needs first aid?

If your child falls over, an adult in full PPE will deliver first aid to your child.

Will my child still receive home learning activities?

Yes, this is in line with our homework policy which focuses mainly on reading, spelling and timestables.

My child has music lessons – will these still go ahead?

No. For the first term, we have taken the decision not to run individual music lessons. We will review this later in the term.

Can my child scoot or cycle to school?

Children are still encouraged to walk, scoot or cycle to school. If bikes and scooters are to be left in school, then parents must accompany their children to the shed/rack to ensure that the children maintain social distancing from other children who are in different bubbles.

Since the 1st June, school has started to come alive again which has been music to my ears. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your understanding and words of positivity. I would also like to publicly thank the entire staff who have shown a commitment beyond anything I could have asked. I feel truly blessed and think I have the BEST team, not just in South Glos, but in the entire country!

I have grown to dislike the phrase 'new normal,' instead I prefer 'Educate for the Future' as in our motto. May I wish you all a safe summer break and I look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Take great care everyone,



Kirsty Robson, Headteacher