



# Banstead Infant School

## September Return Newsletter



26th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone has had a restful summer break managing the typical British summer time weather of extreme heat, heavy rain, storms and everything in between. I hope you have also managed to have some kind of holiday away or a local staycation with days out. With just over a week to go before all children return to school I thought I would take this opportunity to remind you of the information we sent out in the summer term (see Parentmail on 17th July) and update you on any changes prior to the start of term.

Whilst we appreciate that school will not be exactly the same as it was back in March, we are aiming for as normal as possible for our children, while still following all the government guidance and school risk assessment to keep our children and staff as safe as possible. We will continue to make plans for the autumn term, although everything we do and prepare for will always be assessed for risk. All going well this first half term we will be looking into reintroducing school clubs in October and look at how school trips and visits can take place.

Unfortunately, our meet the teacher meetings and Reception reading meetings will not be able to go ahead and instead a video will be sent home containing all the information that you would have received. We will also not be able to have parents in school for our Harvest Festival this year, which is a real shame.

The safety and wellbeing of our children and staff is paramount this term, as we move to a new way of working and bring our school community back together.

I hope you enjoy the remainder of your break and I look forward to seeing you all next week.

Best wishes  
Mr Andrew Burbidge

## COVID Guidance Summary

Guidance for school opening has been updated for September. Our plans are based on the systems of control detailed in this document which focuses on the 2 main areas of prevention and response.

### **Prevention:**

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have COVID-19 symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- 2) Clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual
- 3) Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- 4) Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products
- 5) Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- 6) Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Numbers 1-4 must be in place in schools at all times

Number 5 must be properly considered and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances

Number 6 applies in specific circumstances

### **Response to any infection**

- 7) Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- 8) Manage confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst the school community
- 9) Contain any outbreak by following local Health Protection Team advice

## Our Approach

We are continuing to take a sensible approach to in school measures as we did in the Summer term and reintroducing additional elements to our school day to support our return to 'normal':

- All children will be back in school in their class bubbles of 30
- Back to full school uniform
- Reading books will be sent home (but quarantined for 72 hours on return)
- Specialist support, group and 1:1 intervention can take place
- PE kits will be required in school from Monday 7th September

Successes and measures from the Summer term that will continue to be in place:

- Maintaining as much normality as we can for the children in terms of the way they can play and interact with their friends
- The bubble system. Classes will continue to be seen as a bubble but to support a full EYFS curriculum, 2 of the same classes will be able to mix in the outdoor learning space at the same time
- Promoting and ensuring good hand hygiene through washing and use of hand sanitiser
- Drop off and collect from the fire exit of each class – no parents will be allowed in school.
- Staggered start and finish times to avoid congestion and support social distancing for families  
Reception - 8:40am to 3:10pm (Friday 18th is the first full day)  
Year 1 - 8:50am to 3:20pm (these times are also for parents who may have siblings in more than one year group)  
Year 2 - 9:00am to 3:30pm
- Staggered breaktimes and lunchtimes
- Additional cleaning in place during the school day
- Only essential items such as book bags, water bottles, lunch boxes and outdoor clothing should be brought into school
- Promoting nose blowing and the appropriate disposal of tissues
- Parent support in ensuring no child with symptoms attends school and that anyone with symptoms gets tested with the school informed of the result
- A clear plan of action to take in the event of a confirmed case
- Ongoing communication with parents

## New to Reception Timings

Unfortunately, due to government guidance for the full opening of schools we are unable to carry out home visits or have parental gatherings on school premises. This means that the 'New Parents Evening' on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September has been cancelled. There will instead be a pre-recorded video available to parents from the 7th September with all the information you would have received on that evening.

Also as an alternative, we are proposing further dates for the children to spend more time in school with their class, prior to their staggered start on the week beginning the 14<sup>th</sup> September (these dates haven't changed from the Parentmail sent on 20th July).

### **Thursday 3rd September** *(no school uniform required)*

Stay and Play – The timings for this are in the Welcome Pack you received.

### **Wednesday 9th September** *(no school uniform required)*

9:30am to 10:30am – Autumn born children to visit (September to December)

11:00am to 12:00pm – Spring born children to visit (January to April)

13:30pm to 14:30pm – Summer born children to visit (May to August)

### **Thursday 10th September** *(no school uniform required)*

9:30am to 10:30am – Autumn born children to visit

11:00am to 12:00pm – Spring born children to visit

13:30pm to 14:30pm – Summer born children to visit

These 3 dates are an opportunity for the children to spend a short period of time in school as part of their transition.

### **Monday 14th September**

Summer born children start school (the start time for this day is in your Welcome Pack)

### **Tuesday 15th September**

Spring born children start school (the start time for this day is in your Welcome Pack) + Summer born children arriving at 8:40am

### **Wednesday 16th September**

Autumn born children start school (the start time for this day is in your Welcome Pack) + Summer and Spring born children arriving at 8:40am

Once your child has started school they are expected in every day from then on. Which will be a start time of 8:40am and for the 3 dates above, a collection time of 12:00pm.

### **Thursday 17th September**

Staying for lunch - All children will be in at 8:40am and will stay for lunch with a collection time of 1:45pm.

### **Friday 18th September**

First full day - All children will be in school from 8:40am to 3:10pm.

Parents who wish to see the teacher should agree a convenient time and the meeting will take place outside either in the breeze house in the Reception outdoor area or at a table under the canopy.

## What if?

Please be assured that we understand that young children can have a raised temperature for a wide variety of reasons and that we are also aware that we are moving into the cough and cold season through the autumn term. However, we cannot take any risks with our children and school community so ask you to support us in our expectations for the safety of everyone.

### **WHAT IF MY CHILD OR SOMEONE IN MY HOUSE PRESENTS WITH SYMPTOMS?**

In this case, your child would not be allowed to attend school until either a COVID-19 test for them or the member of the household returns a negative result.

### **WHAT IF MY CHILD PRESENTS WITH SYMPTOMS WHEN THEY ARE IN SCHOOL?**

We would move your child to an isolation room and contact you immediately to come and collect them and arrange for a COVID-19 test. They would be cared for by a member of staff wearing PPE. The equipment the child had handled in the classroom and the isolation room would be cleaned in line with government guidance for decontamination in non-healthcare settings.

### **WHAT IF SOMEONE IN OUR HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE?**

If someone in the household tests positive, the other members of the household should self isolate for 14 days. If they develop symptoms within those 14 days, they should get tested. If the test returns negative, they should continue to self isolate for the remaining days up to 14. If the test returns positive, they should continue to self isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms.

### **WHAT IF MY CHILD TESTS POSITIVE?**

If your child tests positive, they will not be allowed back to school until they have completed their 10 day self isolation period from the onset of symptoms and their high temperature has gone. If the cough or loss of sense of smell/taste is still there, this is OK as these symptoms can last for several weeks after the infection has gone.

### **WHAT IF SOMEONE IN MY CHILD'S CLASS/BUBBLE TESTS POSITIVE?**

Teachers will be keeping note of children and adults who are in close contact with each other. Close contact means:

- Direct close contact – face to face contact for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected skin to skin contact
- Proximity close contacts – extended close contact (within 1-2 metres) for more than 15 mins with an infected individual

Children and adults who fall in to the above descriptions will be asked to self isolate for 14 days. Testing for these children will not be necessary as it could be too early to determine if they have the infection. If they develop symptoms within their 14 days, they should get tested. If the test returns negative, they should continue to self isolate for the remaining days up to 14. If the test returns positive, they should continue to self isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms.

### **WHAT IF MY CHILD IS SELF ISOLATING?**

We will work with you to maintain as much continuity in their education as we can, although we will not be able to provide online lessons as the teachers will be teaching the full class. We will continue to use Seesaw to provide work at home and use other educational resources and platforms as needed, while also trying to maintain contact with the child at home.

**In all cases of a positive COVID-19 test within our school, we will contact and take additional advice from our local Health Protection Team and trust.**