

Bushey Heath Primary School



Headteacher Penny Barefoot

Respect, Encourage and Achieve

19 May 2020

Dear Parent/ Carers

Following Government advice, we are looking forward to welcoming back our Year 6s, Year 1s, Reception and Nursery on Monday 1st June.

The year groups have been prioritised because they are key transition years - children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 are at the very beginning of their school career and are mastering the essential basics, including counting and the fundamentals of reading and writing and learning to socialise with their peers. Year 6 are finishing Key Stage 2 and are preparing for transition to secondary school - they will benefit immensely from time with their friends and teachers to ensure they are ready.

Since the lock-down began the School has remained open, including during school holidays with our teachers and teaching staff welcoming children of key workers.

Almost all children who have not been attending a classroom each day have been working with their teachers in Google Classroom and it has been amazing to see the support from parents and carers working with the teacher to keep learning fun and on track.

In preparation for the return of these children the School has produced a detailed risk assessment to ensure a variety of measures are in place to mitigate risk and ensure the highest possible hygiene standards are maintained.

Actions taken have included, but are not limited to:

- Class sizes: instead of 4 classes of 30 we will operate 8 classes, led by a qualified teacher, with a maximum of 15 children. Because of the small group sizes, your child may not be with their usual teacher. Please do not worry about this; all our teachers are lovely, they are dedicated, practical, pragmatic, understanding, kind and are aware of the measures required to mitigate risk. Trust me, your child will quickly adapt.
- Teaching groups will be kept apart as much as possible and will have their own designated areas where they will play, learn and eat. Resources will not be shared between teaching groups.
- Increased cleaning and hygiene: we are realistic and, despite implementing significant social distancing measures, the class teacher and children in their group are not always going to be 2 metres apart from each other. To ensure children play and socialise as safely as possible we will ensure: frequent hand cleaning and good hygiene practices, regular cleaning of settings, and minimising contact and mixing. Items brought in from home and sent home will be kept to the minimum.
- Parents and carers will be asked to play their part by agreeing to enter and leave the school premises as directed on arrival and departure, observing social distancing and not gathering at the gates. Further information will follow.
- Parents and carers will be asked not to enter the School building unless dropping off items in the designated containers in the foyer.

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- The start and end time of the School day will be staggered for each teaching group to avoid confusion.
- School will reserve the right to refuse entry to any person whose behaviour poses a risk to others.
- PPE may be worn.
- Any child exhibiting COVID-19 type symptoms will be sent home and asked to self-isolate for 14 days or until a negative test result has been obtained.
- If any child or member of staff test positive for COVID-19, all children and staff within their group will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days or until they have received a negative test result.

If you are unable or decide not to send your child to school, your class teacher will be posting an outline of the skills and knowledge being taught in the School on your child's Google Classroom account for that week. This may look slightly daunting at first. Please be reassured, we do not expect you to do all the work posted. Pick and choose the bits that work for you and your child. I am sure life at home is stressful enough without having to teach full-time.

We ask also that you bear in mind as of the 1st June, class teachers will continue to manage their Google Classroom whilst teaching full-time.

Deciding to send your child into school is a decision only you can make as each family's circumstances are very different. All I can say is that should you choose to send your child into school, we will do our very best for him/ her but please accept that life in school will be different from what you are used to.

For those of you not returning at the beginning of June we will of course be looking at the advice and guidance from the government and DfE and will be in contact with you about this in due course.

As always, I thank you for your support and, hopefully, look forward to welcoming you all back soon.

Kind regards

Penny Barefoot