

Friday 17th July 2020

Important Information regarding September Opening Arrangements 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This letter aims to give you all the information you should need for our full return to school in September. In order to keep all children and staff as safe as possible and to comply with our risk assessment we must ensure that the measures detailed in this letter are adhered to. This letter is a lengthy document but I request that you read it all carefully and keep it in a safe place in preparation for the return of all children in September.

Unless there is a change in Government advice it is expected that all children in all year groups will return to school full time from Thursday 3rd September 2020. This is great news!

Bubbles

Children will be split into 3 bubbles across school. Bubble 1 will be children in Reception and Years 1 and 2. Bubble 2 will be children in Years 3 and 4 and Bubble 3 will be children in Years 5 and 6. Staff will remain in their set bubbles and although they may move across classes within their bubble will not go into other bubbles, unless strict social distancing of at least 2m is in place.

Staggered starts and finishes

There will continue to be staggered drop off and pick up times to eliminate congestion and reduce contacts. Parents are asked to drop their children at the designated gates detailed below. Your child will be met by a member of staff in their bubble. It is really important the staff member at the gate is able to support your children so we request that any messages you have are passed on by either emailing together@bucktonvale.tameside.sch.uk or by ringing the school office on 01457 833102 rather than attempting to talk to the teacher at the gate.

	Entry	finish	Entry/collection point
Reception	8.55-9.05am	3.15-3.25pm	Reception Gate next to Bright Futures
KS1	8.40-8.50am	3-3.10pm	Gate next to Bright Futures – KS1 fire exit
Lower KS2	8.55-9.05am	3.15-3.25pm	Moorgate road gate – Year 3 - office and though hall Year 3/4 & 4 – though office corridor
Upper KS2	8.40-8.50am	3-3.10pm	Moorgate road gate – onto Playground Year 6 classroom door Year 5, 5/6 Late door

Each bubble has been allocated a 'window' of time to reduce congestion; the gate will be open only for this time. If you miss your slot please contact the office for further guidance on how to drop your child off.

Unfortunately, siblings will not be able to be dropped off/collected at the same time if they are in separate bubbles; however we have endeavoured to keep the times as close as possible. Children will need to enter the school premises from the designated gate only.

Breakfast club/After school club

Initially, in September, we will not be running the breakfast club or any after school clubs. This is because we are not allowed to mix bubbles of children and we only have one hall so it would be unfair to offer it to one bubble and not another. We are sorry for the inconvenience this will cause but we will review this regularly and hope to restart these as soon as we are safely able to.

Uniform and PE Kits

All children need to return in full school uniform and black school shoes in September. If possible this needs to be clean each day. If children cannot tie laces please ensure their shoes have Velcro and if they struggle with their zip please spend additional time over the summer practising this. Each class teacher will notify you which days are PE days – on these days children should come to school in their PE kits and trainers. Although we will be having a lot of outdoor learning time, Forest School will not be taking place initially but we will advise which classes will need kit for this when we are able to offer it again.

Water Bottle and Snacks

All children in all year groups will need to bring a clearly named water bottle. This bottle must have a sports capped top which the children can open independently not a chilly bottle or similar. These bottles will be kept in your child's tray so please do not send a bottle that is too large. These bottles will come home each night to be washed.

Children can bring a small snack to school; this must be a healthy snack such as breadsticks, fruit, rice cakes or toast. Please do not send in Tupperware boxes as the snack must be fully disposable. Unfortunately, Toasty Tuesday will not be able to continue for at least the Autumn term.

Lunchtimes

Lunchtime will be staggered, with slightly different times than our usual. In addition, some children will eat in the hall and others in the classroom. Parents may order a lunch from the school grid system by 9:00am each day or send in a packed lunch in a small bag; again, this will be kept with your child so please no big rucksacks.

Children in Years 5 and 6 - Miss Ingram, Mr Payne and Mrs Green/Mrs Oldham will need to bring a change of footwear as they will be using the school field for their playtimes every day and we endeavour to go out even when it is unsettled weather.

Bags

Children will only need to bring a school bag on Monday and Friday – Monday reading books will be changed and new ones provided. These will remain at home for the week to be returned on Monday. We ask that parents continue to sign reading records each week, which will be checked weekly by staff. Homework will be set and handed in on a Friday, giving children a full week to complete it.

Children will be allocated their own set of school stationary which will remain in their tray. As usual, no pencil cases, toys or trinkets will be allowed from home.

Milk

Cool milk will be available from September. Children in reception will be provided with a bottle of milk daily. Parents can order for any other year group by visiting www.coolmilk.com

Office

To speak to someone in the office please either ring 01457 833102 or email admin@buctktonvale.tameside.sch.uk. Parents will not be able to enter the office in person without prior arrangement.

Please ensure your child is well prepared for school and has everything they need as unfortunately you will not be able to drop things off during the day.

Large Gatherings

Large gathering such as assemblies will not be allowed to happen for at least the Autumn term. Parents, volunteers and non-staff members will not be allowed into school. We will advise as soon as possible plans for events such as Parents evening. If you need to speak to the class teacher please arrange to do this via phone call or email.

Classroom Cleanliness

We will continue to have an increased cleaning routine in school and cleaners are on site throughout the day. Rooms, toilets and communal areas will be disinfected regularly throughout the day and children will maintain high levels of hand washing at regular intervals.

First Aid and COVID Test and Trace Procedure

DO NOT send your child to school if they have any COVID symptoms, in particular temperature, cough or have lost their sense of taste or smell.

If this is the case, you must follow the guidance and arrange a test.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance.

You must keep school informed at all times of the results of the test. Where a bubble has to be dispersed in the event of a positive case, you will receive communication from school about what you need to do next regarding testing/isolating etc.

In the event of a bubble closure you should access the school website and class page which will give very clear instructions regarding the home learning your child will be expected to do – unless they are unwell.

Blended Learning/Home Learning Offer

The Government require all schools to have a home learning package ready if any bubble needs to close due to positive COVID 19 test or Local Lockdown. In this situation we ask you to refer to your class page to find the current work set for home learning. It is imperative that you engage with this work and it will be closely monitored by school. Thank you so much for all that you have done so far – it has been fantastic to see so

much home learning. As usual, all home learning work can be emailed into together@bucktonvale.org.uk or posted on the class Twitter page.

A final reminder of the responsibilities and expectations on parents/ carers as part of living with Covid.

- Only ONE PARENT can drop off at school.
- Children who do not come to Buckton Vale should be kept at home as far as possible. If this is not possible please keep any pre-school age children in a buggy, sling or on reins.
- You MUST follow the social distancing guidelines.
- You MUST adhere strictly to the staggered drop off and pick up times and should walk to school where possible as we will be unable to manage off-site congestion and NO parent vehicles will be permitted to drive onto site.
- Please ensure you take responsibility for distancing yourself and your child from other parents and families.
- Please do not stand waiting for or chatting to other parents either on site or outside school. There must be no gatherings or blockages.
- There will NOT be an opportunity to speak to your child's teacher or the office face to face. You must email or call to make an appointment and you will be called back as soon as possible. We endeavour to make contact with you within 24 hours.
- NO scooters, bikes or other property from home is permitted to be brought on to school premises.

We thank you for all your support over recent months; it has been a challenging time for the whole school community. We are excited to welcome the children back; and although school will look very different to those who have not been in since Lockdown we will endeavour to support all our children to transition back to school.

In the meantime, have a lovely summer break and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Brown
Headteacher.